# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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*FBIS-NES-94-093* *13 May 1994*

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## Arab-Israeli Talks

### Refugee Committee Expects $50 Million in Aid

*NC1205192794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 May 94*

[Excerpts] Cairo, 12 May (MENA)—Ambassador 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, head of the Egyptian delegation to the meetings of the Refugee Affairs Committee stemming from the multilateral talks, has stated that several countries have decided to give financial assistance to the tune of $50 million to the Palestinian refugees. He said that this assistance is designed to improve the refugees' standard of living.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Ambassador Ahmad 'Uthman said that the Refugee Affairs Committee has prepared a report on the condition of the Palestinian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon, who thought they were excluded from the peace process. He noted that a special committee had inspected their living, economic, and social conditions and submitted a report to the Refugee Committee. Accordingly, several countries decided to give financial assistance to improve the conditions of the Palestinian refugees who live outside the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In his statement, Ambassador 'Uthman said that other countries had also decided to give technical assistance and to finance economic projects to improve the conditions of the refugees inside and outside the occupied territories without harming their political rights, including their right to return. He affirmed that the philosophy of the Refugee Affairs Committee is to promote the refugees' living conditions until a final solution to their problem is reached. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Ilyas [name indistinct], head of the Palestinian delegation to the Refugee Affairs Committee, said that the Palestinian delegation has demanded that all the UN resolutions pertaining to the Palestinian issue be implemented and be a basis form the authority of the Committee. The Palestinian delegation noted that there should be no contradiction between the Refugee Affairs Committee's work and the refugees' political rights and future status, he said.

The head of the Palestinian delegation said that working out a final solution to the refugee's problem will be dealt with within the context of Palestinian-Israeli political negotiations, slated to be held at the start of the third year of Palestinian autonomy. He said there are six million Palestinians, and those include three million refugees who are seeking to return to the homeland.

### Committee Concludes Session

*NC1205185594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA)—The Refugee Affairs Committee under the multilateral talks has concluded its three-day session here. Delegations from 40 countries, the United Nations, and the World Bank took part.

Mark Byron, Canadian deputy foreign minister who chaired the meetings, thanked the Egyptian Government for hosting the session.

Speaking at a news conference at the conclusion of the meetings, Byron said that it had discussed the items on its agenda.

On the issue of the reunification of Palestinian families, the group welcomed the noticeable increase in the number of cases since its last meeting in Tunis. He added that a French working group will follow up on this issue and urged the involved parties to show more flexibility.

In the sphere of developing human resources and creating new job opportunities for Palestinian refugees, the Canadian official said that the United States, Turkey, Germany, China, the Netherlands, and Israel have declared new initiatives aimed at increasing job opportunities for refugees and enabling them to be self-reliant.

The head of the working group on refugees said that constructive initiatives were proposed in the sphere of public health that took into account the needs of the refugees in the West Bank and the neighboring countries.

In the field of child care, Mark Byron said that Sweden proposed a plan and made an initial contribution of $2 million for the psychological rehabilitation program.

In the field of social infrastructure, the working group noted the need to provide for the needs of the refugees within the framework of what was announced previously. The group also heard a report by an international investigation committee on the living conditions of the Palestinian refugees in Jordan's camps. He added that it was agreed to prepare a data base for strengthening the Palestinian statistics office, and that Norway, Canada, the United States, and the EU pledged to prepare it.

The Canadian official said that improving the refugees' living standards will promote the peace process, noting that the Canadian foreign minister announced yesterday that his country had decided to give $2.7 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency to be used to fund health, educational, and housing projects for refugees in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. He added that the overall aid that the international community has pledged to the Palestinian refugees since the end of October 1993 has reached $50 million.

The working group on refugees started its work on Tuesday; Egypt's delegation was led by Ambassador Ahmad 'Uthman.

## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Conclusion of Electricity Talks in Cairo Reported

*JN0905100294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 9 May 94*

[Text] The electricity ministers of the five countries involved in the power grid linkage project—Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and Turkey—last night concluded the meetings of the fourth term of their council in Cairo.

During their meetings, the ministers signed with the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development a protocol for joint cooperation and financing of a five-way power linkage plan to complete the linkage and implement the first and second phases of the plan by linking Egypt with Jordan, Jordan with Syria, and Syria with Iraq, and the last phase by linking Turkey with Iraq.

The Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development and the Islamic Bank endorsed the financing of the plan in its three phases in light of coordination between the parties of the plan.

The electricity ministers also approved the recommendations of the executive committee of the power linkage project, including the execution of the rest of the phases of the project and how work will proceed.

At the conclusion of their meetings, the ministers agreed to hold the fifth session of their council on 5 April 1995 in Turkey.

During the morning session of yesterday's meetings, Engineer Kamil al-Baba, the electricity minister, expressed hope that the Syrian power network will form an important link in the power linkage scheme of the Arab East countries, especially after the implementation of many electricity schemes in Syria recently.

## Palestinian Affairs

### Police Unit Crosses to Jericho, Commander Comments

*JN1205195994 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] A Palestinian police force crossed the Jordan River today to take control of the Jericho area on the West Bank, thus marking the end of 27 years of Israeli occupation. The first regiment was made up of 20 police; the rest will follow.

From King Husayn bridge, our correspondent Yusuf Faraj reports:

[Begin recording] [Faraj] At 1300 today, a 20-man advance party of the Palestinian National Security Forces crossed King Husayn Bridge to Jericho on Palestinian territory, following a five-day wait at a point close to the bridge. The crossing followed talks between top Palestinian and Israeli negotiators. The regiment will take up position at points already agreed to by the sides.

[Jamil Tarifi, head of the Palestinian side to the Liaison Committee with Israel] The first regiment will conduct joint patrols with the Israelis in the Jericho area.

[Faraj] And the second regiment?

[Tarifi] The second regiment is scheduled to travel straight to Gaza today to undertake security responsibilities in conjunction with forces that crossed via the Rafah border point. The forces due to cross tomorrow will handle security duties in Jericho. We are slated to take over all civilian duties in Jericho.

[Major General Nasr Yusuf, commander of the Palestinian Security Forces] God willing, tomorrow will see us in complete control over the southern region from the Gaza Valley in the north to Rafah in the south. Then we will have control over the northern part of Gaza, which, God willing, will be completed next Wednesday [18 May].

[Faraj] How do you feel on this occasion?

[Yusuf] I am gripped by unusual feelings. The sight of our kinsfolk celebrating is unbelievable. It is a historic, unusual, special day. On this occasion, we thank our brothers here in Jordan for the training facilities they made available to us. We are particularly grateful to his majesty the king, who yesterday visited and inspected the units and extended further moral and material support. This country is ours and its people our kinsfolk. We have always been family, and we share a common future, God willing. [end recording]

### Palestinians Assume Authority in Jericho, Khan Yunus

*TA1305055994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 May 94*

[Text] The transfer of authorities to the Palestinians in Jericho has begun. Foreign correspondents report from the town that approximately two hours ago, Brigadier General Gadi Zohar, the head of the Civil Administration, turned the administration building over to 12 Palestinian policemen. The policemen were also given the police station. The Palestinians hastened to fly a Palestinian flag from the building. Correspondents report that local residents were surprised that the ceremony was held earlier than they had expected. In approximately one hour, the Palestinians will also receive control of the Hanan base, which was used until now by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The Palestinian al-Aqsa brigade will now operate from the base.

According to reports from Amman, hundreds of soldiers from the brigade are currently making their way to the Allenby bridge. If everything goes according to plan, they

will enter the Jericho area sometime today. The Palestinians are also slated to receive control over the area of the ancient Shalom 'Al Yisra'el synagogue in Jericho today.

The transfer of authorities to the Palestinians also continued in the Gaza Strip. Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that last night, the IDF turned over army, police, and Border Police installations to Palestinian policemen. A convoy of 300 Palestinian policemen is now making its way to the Gaza Strip after crossing the Allenby Bridge last night. The convoy is currently on its way to Rafah and it is accompanied by Israeli security forces.

Brigadier General Doron Almog, the commander of IDF forces in the Gaza Strip, said that the number of shooting incidents in the Gaza Strip had declined recently. Brig. Gen. Almog asserted that this was due to an agreement between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] designed to prevent any delays in the IDF's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

[Tel Aviv IDF radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT reports that "as of 0400 [0100 GMT] this morning, Khan Yunus and all the rest of the southern part of the Gaza Strip are in Palestinian hands. During the night, the headquarters of the Khan Yunus brigade, the Khan Yunus Civil Administration offices, and the Border Police base were completely evacuated. A short time afterwards, at 0335 [0035 GMT] a vehicle carrying about 30 Palestinian policemen arrived, accompanied by Israeli security forces. The policemen, who arrived with weapons, were given ammunition and immediately toured the installations being turned over to them." The report goes on to note that "up till now, six installations have been turned over to the Palestinians. As of 0400 this morning, Khan Yunus and all the southern part of the Gaza Strip are controlled by the Palestinian police and approximately two thirds of the residents of the Gaza Strip are no longer under IDF control."]

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 13 May in a page 1 report by On Levi and Mikhal Sela' states that "defense establishment sources have expressed fears that Palestinian fugitives and armed terrorists from Judaea and Samaria may flee to the Jericho area and use it as a refuge. At the General Staff, discussions were held on the need to increase the supervision of people entering and leaving the Jericho area along the main traffic axes and bypass roads, especially in light of the fact that contrary to the Gaza Strip, no fence will be established around Jericho." The report notes that "IDF sources have expressed the assessment that terrorist activity against soldiers and Israeli civilians will increase in the areas that are not under Palestinian control. The sources believe that these attacks will be carried out by the rejectionist groups, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad."]

## Palestinian Troops Use Rafah Crossing, Enter Gaza

*NC1205124494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Rafah, 12 May (MENA)—A new batch of Palestinian police entered Gaza via the Rafah crossing point today. For the first time they were accompanied by a doctor.

Brigadier Ahmad Hasan Mifrid, commander of the Palestinian police coming from Yemen, has stated his group comprises 450 officers, noncommissioned officers, and privates, adding that the remaining forces will arrive in Egypt from Yemen later. There, they will assemble before entering Gaza and Jericho.

Major General 'Abd-al-Raziq al-Majayrah, commander of the camp where Palestinian troops assemble in Egypt, has stated that approximately 200 personnel are scheduled to enter [Gaza] tomorrow, Friday, and a similar number on Saturday, pending the approval of the Israeli side. He noted that preparations are under way to assemble the remaining troops coming from Sudan, Algeria, and Libya. He added that the troops will take over their posts and deploy immediately upon their entry into the territories. The total number of security men coming from abroad via Egypt and Jordan will be approximately 7,000, he added.

Meanwhile, approximately 200 security men are scheduled to cross the Allenby Bridge from Jordan on their way to Jericho tomorrow. For the second time, Israel yesterday refused entry to seven Palestinian policemen and turned them back to Egypt, claiming that their names were wrong.

North Sinai Governor Munir Shash has decided to exempt the Palestinian police forces from paying the 16-pound exit fee paid by travelers using the Rafah border point.

## Third Batch of Police Not Allowed Through Rafah

*NC1205200094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Rafah, 12 May (MENA)—In a new development, today Israel postponed the entry of the third batch of the Palestinian police force through the Rafah land border after they had crossed from the Egyptian side. Israel has allowed 99 policemen to enter of the total of 450 individuals who were supposed to enter. The rest were returned to the Egyptian side after they had left the Egyptian borders.

Staff Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Majaydah, commander of the Palestinian police force, stated that it was previously agreed upon that 450 members of the Palestinian police force would enter. Israel approved this, but the rest of the group has been turned back, and a postponement for technical reasons has been requested.

The commander of the forces said the Palestinian forces are completely ready and prepared to enter immediately once Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat issues his instructions in accordance with Israel's approval. However, now this entry is being prevented and there are attempts to hamper the entry process.

Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq praised Egypt's efforts and the facilities the government is providing to support the cause and facilitate the entry of the forces into the autonomy areas in Gaza and Jericho.

### Police Allowed Entry

*NC1305061894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Rafah, 12 May (MENA)—Tonight, Israel agreed to allow the rest of the Palestinian police force, the third batch, into the autonomy areas through the Rafah crossing point.

Israel previously allowed only 99 of 450 members of the third batch through, for reasons that Israel claimed were technical.

Staff Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Majaydah, commander of the Palestinian forces, stated that Israel decided to prevent popular receptions for the Palestinian people to welcome their returning forces.

He said an agreement was reached between the Palestinian and the Israeli sides to allow 250 members of the Palestinian police to cross tomorrow morning through the Rafah border post. The forces in Jordan will also enter through the Allenby Bridge.

He added that other forces will arrive from Libya, Sudan, and Algeria. They will all gather in Rafah to prepare to enter the autonomy areas in stages following the approval of the Israeli side.

[In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 0601 GMT on 13 May adds the following: "Three hundred Palestinian policemen crossed into the West Bank from Jordan overnight and headed by bus for the Gaza Strip under Israeli army escort, a military spokesman said Friday.

["The men from the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) will join 300 of their comrades who arrived in two groups on Tuesday and Wednesday nights through the Rafah border from Egypt.

["'They crossed the Allenby Bridge early this morning and will probably enter Gaza from the south,' the spokesman said.

["They belong to the PLA's "Badr" brigade stationed in Jordan and were driving down the Dead Sea, up through the Negev desert and across west to the Strip.

["The men were armed but without munitions, which were held only by one officer on each of the 10 buses."]

["Another 386 policemen, formerly based in Iraq, were due to follow later Friday, as the Israelis relinquish control of the West Bank town and the Gaza Strip to the Palestinians under the autonomy deal signed on May 4.

["And 300 more Palestinian police had been stuck all night at the Rafah border because of what PLO officials described as 'a big problem', but refused to elaborate.

["Palestinian sources said the Israeli authorities objected to certain names among the 300 and that a major argument ensued."]

### Another 300 Policemen Enter Gaza Strip

*TA1305101994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 May 94*

[Excerpt] The 300 Palestinian policemen who drove through Israel from Jericho last night entered the Gaza Strip approximately one hour ago through the Kerem Shalom checkpoint. Their weapons had previously been returned to them.

Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that the group has reached Rafah and deployed at a site which previously served as the headquarters of the Gaza Strip's southern brigade. [passage omitted]

### 'Arafat Demands Power Transfer in All of West Bank

*TA1205183194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat is demanding that Israel immediately transfer to the Palestinians self-government powers in all of the West Bank. 'Arafat raised this demand during his meeting with President 'Ezer Weizman in Pretoria. This was learned by our correspondent 'Iman-u'el Halperin. Prime Minister Rabin was briefed about this development.

The Swiss president, who also met with Mr. Weizman in South Africa, proposed to establish a sixth committee in the framework of the multilateral talks. His proposal calls for establishing a committee to deal with human rights in the region. The deliberations of this committee would be coordinated by Switzerland. Israel will examine the proposal.

### Sha'th on Steps To Follow Gaza-Jericho Transition

*JN1205162094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 May 94*

[Telephone interview with Nabil Sha'th, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in Cairo, by Sa'id Mu'addi, in the studio, on 12 May; from the "With The Events" feature—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th in Cairo, good evening. Jericho tomorrow and Gaza next week. The challenges are great and you must have something to say on this occasion?

[Sha'th] The Palestinian people have been anticipating this day for a long time. True, there are challenges and difficulties and, true, there is responsibility that comes with freedom, but this is the opportunity for the Palestinian people to govern themselves on their soil. It starts here in Gaza and Jericho. This is the starting point for a people who have suffered for a long time. Now, the horizons of freedom and independence have begun to be seen over their soil. This people and their leadership must rise to the level of responsibility. Freedom and independence, even at the starting point, means great responsibility in terms of the people's security, freedom, free expression, participation in decisions, and the tiring work to achieve economic development and social justice. All these things are required from us when we take the first step in Gaza and Jericho.

[Mu'addi] The challenges are great, and the PLO is suffering a financial crisis that even caused a delay in the transfer of powers. What has happened?

[Sha'th] Yes, we are facing a financial problem. This problem has made our entry more difficult, but we are gradually overcoming this problem. I am confident that the presence of the police force inside Gaza and Jericho will be received with thousands of invitations and real support from the citizens. I believe we have all seen the cordial welcome they received. This, however, will not substitute for the money needed for equipment, uniforms, and transportation. We are seriously seeking to overcome these problems. The United States and the European Union have pledged funds, while equipment and other items will be coming from Japan, France, Greece, Germany, and other countries. We are working day and night to realize this support and transfer it to the Palestinian police force as soon as possible.

[Mu'addi] What will be the future steps after the assumption of powers and the establishment of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, which will apparently start be next week?

[Sha'th] I have always told people the difficult phase is over, but the more difficult phase is still ahead of us. Undoubtedly, the transfer is important, but now we have to discuss how to form a competent, clean, and responsible government. How do we start the measures for economic development? How do we start preparations for elections? Above all, how do we continue negotiations to assume powers in the West Bank and reach an agreement on the interim phase in the West Bank and Gaza which will lead to the withdrawal of Israeli troops from cities and camps in the West Bank? All these matters are required. Some resulted from the signing of the agreement. Other topics must also be discussed after the transfer to Gaza and Jericho. These are missions for the forthcoming phase.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th has struggled for a long time to see the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Will Nabil Sha'th be a member of the long-awaited Palestinian national authority?

[Sha'th] I will do whatever I am asked to do by my people and leadership. I devoted myself a long time ago to serve this people and their cause. I will not hesitate to serve my people in any position.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, thank you very much.

[Sha'th] Thank you, brother.

### Comments on Results of Gaza-Jericho Accord

*LD1205192394 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Assessing the results of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation in the talks with Israel, has said that, in view of the Declaration of Principles signed in Oslo, we have obtained the best possible results. The worst of the Oslo agreement was the issues we decided to postpone—for example, the settlements, the issue of the 1948 refugees, external security, and Jerusalem.

He added: In my opinion, we have obtained the best conditions even on the postponed issues, particularly the settlements. The whole conflict in this agreement was on how to reduce the area of the settlements and Israel's control over them during the transitional period.

Dr. Sha'th added that the agreement does not limit the demand for legitimate rights in the forthcoming period. We have added a clause to the effect that, whatever happens during the transitional period, our rights in the final phase will not be affected. The land in the West Bank and Gaza will also remain a single regional unit. There was also another clause which stipulated that whatever we signed in the Gaza-Jericho agreement did not constitute a renunciation of any of our rights. Sha'th also said that Israel has no right to reoccupy Gaza if settlements and settlers are exposed to danger.

Concerning foreign relations, Dr. Sha'th pointed out that Israel advocated that the Palestinian authority should not be allowed to exercise foreign relations. More than this, the PLO would not be allowed to exercise these relations on behalf of this authority, something which we rejected, he said. According to the agreement, countries and international organizations have the right to establish representation bureaus in the self-rule area, but the Palestinian authority cannot have embassies other than embassies of Palestine.

On the outstanding points of difference after the signing of the agreement, and the talks to be held about it, Dr. Sha'th said that all these issues are remnants of the Cairo security agreement: these are the Mawasi beach in Gaza, the Jericho crossing point, the Rafah crossing point, the area of Jericho, and the presence of Palestinian soldiers on the Allenby bridge. The talks will continue around

four main axes, among which are the gaining of early authority in the West Bank, to include education, culture, tourism, taxes, social affairs, police, and so on. We will also start negotiating over the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the West Bank and the holding of legislative elections in it. The four-man committee would start negotiating on the return of the refugees after a month.

Dr. Sha'th pointed out in a press statement that the talks on the refugees will revolve around two issues only. These are return measures and measures for maintaining security and order; there will not merely be discussions of the same principle.

### Sha'th on Authority, Prisoners, Other Issues

*NC1205194894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, has announced that President 'Arafat today approved the nomination of 15 members of the Palestinian Authority Council in Gaza and Jericho. He said that he informed Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin of this today so that the authorities would receive this information through official channels, and not to ask Israel for approval of the Council members.

He added that the Council chairman will be Yasir 'Arafat. It will include 14 members. These are: Zakariya al-Agha, Frayh Abu-Midyan, Faysal al-Husayni, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Dr. Riyad al-Za'nun, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Dr. 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Haj Ahmad, Ilyas Furayj, Ahmad Quray' alias Abu-'Ala', Samir Ghawshah, Yasir 'Amr, Mrs. Intisar al-Wazir alias Umm Jihad, and Mrs. Hanan al-'Ashrawi.

Sha'th told his news conference at the Foreign Correspondents Association in Cairo today that all these members have agreed to take part in the first Palestinian Authority Council, and their nomination has been approved by the PLO Executive Committee.

He noted that in the next four days, nine other members will be nominated, thus completing the formation of the Council, which will consist of 24 members. He said that the Council will start its duties immediately. He expected that this will take place on Wednesday, 18 May, in Gaza-Jericho and will constitute the first Palestinian National Authority on Palestinian territory.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th said that among the members of the Council are two former deportees, 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Haj Ahmad and 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi. There are also two women: Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi and Intisar al-Wazir. Among them also is one of Jerusalem's prominent sons, namely Faysal al-Husayni.

Dr. Sha'th added that the members of the Council have not yet been allocated their portfolios. He clarified that in accordance with the protocol that was signed last week, the PLO will continue to be the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people until their Palestinian state is established. He said that the Palestinian Authority in Gaza and Jericho is a part of the PLO, which supervises the liberated territories.

He added that foreign relations and the Palestine Liberation Army's affairs outside the Palestinian territories, as well as the national and international relations will continue to be the responsibilities of the PLO headquarters in Tunis. These affairs will be administered by three prominent members from the PLO Executive Committee—namely, Faruq Qaddumi for foreign diplomatic relations, Mahmud 'Abbas for national relations with Jewish organizations, and 'Abdallah Hurani for the Palestine Liberation Army.

On the delay in the Palestinian Authority's assumption of its duties in Gaza and Jericho, Sha'th said that this is due to very difficult circumstances because of the Palestinian diaspora. Thankfully, Saudi planes have transported members of the police from Yemen to Sinai. Saudi planes will also transport those coming from Algeria. Those coming from Libya will travel by car thousands of kilometers to cross through the al-Sallum border post to Sinai.

Egyptian planes have transported those coming from Sudan.

In this regard, Sha'th thanked President Husni Mubarak; King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques; and the Arab countries who have provided and continue to provide all the necessary facilities to transport these forces.

Sha'th expressed his belief that these forces will complete their arrival in Gaza and Jericho within the next few days.

He said that the Palestinian Authority would like the financial allocations from the donor countries to arrive quickly so that it can be spent on this police force. He noted that there is positive international action by the United States, Japan, and the European countries to hasten this process. Also, a batch of new cars for this police will arrive in Port Said sometime next week.

He said that this positive attitude reflects the extent of the world's interest in backing the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

On the relationships of the newborn Palestinian Authority in Gaza and Jericho, Dr. Sha'th said that this authority is part of the PLO, and although the latter is entrusted with representing the Palestinian people and negotiating and signing on its behalf, the Authority will be in charge of implementing the agreement on the scene. He added: Both the Palestinian people and Israel want to the retain the PLO at present. The Palestinians believe that the PLO is their representative until the state of Palestine is officially established. Israel would like to continue to negotiate and cooperate with the PLO

in order to avoid the establishment of the Palestinian state. But, he added, the establishment of this state has become inevitable, no matter how long it takes.

In reply to a question about Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent statement that Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Israel, Dr. Sha'th said: Rabin has no right to say this because, according to the Declaration of Principles, Jerusalem is an issue in the bilateral negotiations. If Rabin wishes it to be the capital of Israel, we in turn insist on making Jerusalem the capital of Palestine. He added: Since Israel has agreed to share the land of Palestine with us, why does it not agree then to let us both share Jerusalem?

In reply to a question on why Israel has not released the remaining Palestinian prisoners and detainees, Dr. Sha'th emphasized that he is confident that they will all be released. He explained that Israel would like to hand over many of them to the Palestinian Authority when it takes over, especially those convicted of ordinary crimes. Their cases will be left for the Palestinian Authority to decide on. As for the members of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and al-Jihad movements, they have not been released so far because they have not signed a declaration to the Israeli authorities accepting the peace agreement. Maybe they do not want to sign such a declaration for the Israeli authorities but might sign for the Palestinian Authority so as to be released.

On 'Arafat's entry into Gaza and Jericho, Sha'th referred to 'Arafat's statements that this will take place in early June. But, he added, 'Arafat has his own surprises. We don't know. The date might be before then.

On the differences between the Palestinian organizations, especially Hamas and al-Jihad, Dr. Sha'th said that there is an agreement that these differences should be kept within the democratic framework and not turned into acts of violence. He stressed his conviction that all the Palestinian organizations care about this democratic dialogue in order to establish the Palestinian state and ensure the success of the agreement as the first step toward the establishment of the state of Palestine.

Dr. Sha'th went on to say that the PLO, which is headquartered in Tunis, will remain in charge of the affairs of the refugees outside the liberated areas in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and that the Palestine National Council [PNC], which includes members from inside and outside the territories, will remain the highest legislative Palestinian authority.

Sha'th went on to say that the coming elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which are scheduled to be held after three months, will be for the election of the members of the PNC from inside the territories, who were formerly appointed. He said: These members comprise a third of the PNC members but at the same time constitute the Palestinian Authority's parliament inside the territories.

In response to a question about the Palestinian diplomatic missions abroad, he said that they will remain the prerogative of the PLO headquartered in Tunis, but all countries will have the right to open representation offices in Gaza and Jericho until the Palestinian state is established.

On the new Palestinian ambassador in Cairo, Sha'th said that Acting Ambassador Zuhdi al-Qidrah will be appointed the Palestinian state's ambassador in Cairo.

## 'Power Struggle' Delays Autonomy Appointments

*JN1205123994 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 May 94 pp 1, 5*

[Article by Lamis K. Andoni: "PLO Reformists Gain Strength Ahead of Self-Rule"]

[Text] Deliberations to form a Palestinian authority have triggered an unprecedented internal power struggle as Palestinian officials and leaders seem determined to put an end to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's single-handed leadership prior to moving to Jericho and Gaza.

So far most PLO officials and leaders from the Israeli-occupied territories have declined to take part in the 25-member authority either in protest against the agreement on Palestinan autonomy signed in Cairo on May 4, or against Mr. 'Arafat autocratic style, which, they fear, will dominate the new authority.

Prior to Mr. 'Arafat's departure for South Africa to attend the inauguration of President Nelson Mandela, the PLO leadership in Tunis challenged his attempt to single-handedly appoint the Palestinian authority.

But, during his brief stay in South Africa, the PLO chairman defied the challenge by appointing by telephone four members from the occupied territories.

So far the four leaders from the occupied territories, who are said to have accepted membership in the Palestinian authority, are Fatah head in Gaza Zakariya al-Agha, Frayh Abu-Middayn (also a Gaza close to Fatah), Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, and the head of the Palestinian side of the liaison with Israel, Jamil al-Tarifi.

By going over the heads of the PLO Executive Committee and prominent PLO leaders in the occupied territories, Mr. 'Arafat is apparently trying to force the reluctant leaders to follow—a tactic that he has perfected in the past.

But this time the situation is more complicated as many officials and leaders are wary about the implications of taking part in an authority in charge of implementing an agreement that they either oppose or have strong reservations about.

Most, including his partners in the 30-month-of peace process, feel that they were marginalised in the actual

negotiations and that Mr. 'Arafat is now trying to impose on them an agreement that they were not party to.

In a strongly-worded statment, the Palestine Democratic Union, FIDA, led by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, charged that the pact enables Israel to practically maintain its control over the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

FIDA officials, however said that Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh was ready to take part in the Palestinian authority provided Mr. 'Arafat accepted clearly defined terms and democratic basis for the functions of the authority.

According to FIDA, the main immediate task is to work on freeing the Palestinian authority from the constraints imposed on it by the agreement. According to the agreement, the Palestinian authority cannot take major or minor decisions without the approval of the Israeli side through a maze of joint committees and subcommittees that will oversee its implementation.

Some argue that it is already too late to try to alter the role of the Palestinian authority that has been limitted by the terms of the agreement.

Some argue that it is already too late to try to alter the role of the Palestinian authority that has been limitted by the terms of the agreement.

The Palestine People's party (PPP), which maintains such a view, has already informed Mr. 'Arafat that it was not participating in the Palestinian authority according to the conditions outlined in the Israeli-Palestinian pact.

But it seems that Mr. 'Arafat has underestimated early signs of defiance by completely ignoring last-minute appeals to him not to sign the agreement as soon as the details became known to his colleagues and PLO leaders in the occupied territories.

Both Faysal al-Husayni, Fatah's leader in the West Bank, and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington bilateral talks, had urged Mr. 'Arafat not to sign the pact and try to renegotiate some of its terms.

In a lengthy memo to the PLO chairman, Dr. 'Urayqat wrote that the pact aimed "at perpetuating, instead of ending, the occupation."

Mr. 'Arafat was not able to secure full-fledged support for the accord by his own PLO Executive Committee or the Fatah Central Committee. At a meeting in Tunis on May [no date given], Mr. 'Arafat was said to have not even sought the approval of his colleagues as the issue was presented as a fait accompli.

PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi was particularly outraged by the terms of the economic agreement signed in Paris on April 29.

In an internal memo to the PLO Executive Committee, made available to the JORDAN TIMES, Mr. al-Nashashibi said that the Paris pact allowed Israel total control over the Palestinian economy through the joint Palestinian-Israeli economic committee. In Mr. al-Nashashibi's view, by allowing Israel to share, If not to control, economic decision-making, the pact will obstruct the building of a Palestinian national economy.

Mr. al-Nashashibi is said to have declined membership in the Palestinian authority.

A senior Fatah Central Committee member, Hani al-Hasan, believes that the Paris economic accord is the most dangerous part of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement.

Mr. al-Hasan, and his brother, Khalid, who is currently under medical treatment at the Farah centre of the al-Husayn Medical City, are both against the accord and refuse to move to Jericho and Gaza under its terms.

So far Mr. 'Arafat has failed in talking any of the cofounders of his Fatah movement to join the authority, as head of the PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi has already refused to be part of the new authority.

The only exception could be Intisar al-Wazir, widow of PLO military leader Khalil al-Wazir, Abu-Jihad, who has reluctantly accepted her appointment to the authority.

But if most PLO leaders are mainly reacting to being excluded from the negotiations process, resulting in an agreement they were not party to, Mr. 'Arafat is not having an easier time with two of his closest partners that continued with the deal all the way through the signing, PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas and economic chief Ahmad Quray'.

Both are said to have declined invitations to join the Palestinian authority citing differences with Mr. 'Arafat over the handling of the Palestine Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR).

Analysts and PLO officials, however, believe that Mr. 'Arafat will eventually succeed in forming a Palestinan authority. But they say the body will not be a strong one if he failed to recruit credible names with broad following in the occupied territories, especially after losing the support of important leaders like the estranged chief Palestinan negotiator Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi.

But many, including opponents of the peace pact, now argue that the only way to contain the damage and to open the way for the emergence of strong nationalist leaders is to ensure that free elections will be held after the setting up of the Palestinian authonomy.

### Al-Surani on Process of Forming National Authority

*PM1305084694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 May 94 p 5*

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani by Rashid Khashanah in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Khashanah] How do you interpret the delay in appointing members of the Palestinian authority, despite the Executive Committee's extensive meetings?

[Al-Surani] Forming the Palestinian authority or the government is not an easy issue that can be ended in hours or days. There are numerous normal contacts, because we are moving from one phase to another...from the revolution, which has numerous concerns but limited requirements, to the phase of taking responsibility for a people's life, including health, education, housing, transportation, post, food, electricity, and other needs. [passage omitted]

[Khashanah] When will consultations be completed as regards forming the authority, and when will it be officially announced?

[Al-Surani] We must first complete the consultations between those inside and those outside and also among those outside. It is a difficult equation. The objective is to ensure that the ship is heading—right from the start—toward the shore of safety.

[Khashanah] Have you agreed at least on the foundations and criteria?

[Al-Surani] That too is among the issues we are currently discussing. I expect the consultations to be completed within a week or 10 days at the latest. [passage omitted]

[Khashanah] In practice, how will the Executive Committee be the authority for the National Authority?

[Al-Surani] That decision was taken by the Central Council in its October session, because the Executive Committee represents the Palestinian people's unity. If the national authority inside is for those inside only, it would be as if we are saying that the Palestinian people in the diaspora have nothing to do with Palestine. The Executive Committee's being the authority qualifies it to continue to be the political and spiritual bond for the Palestinians inside, about 3 million of them, and the Palestinians outside, about 3 million of them. It means that the problem of the diaspora Palestinians will continue to exist and will not be solved except with the deferred issues—Jerusalem, dismantling of the settlements, and self-determination.

[Khashanah] Does that mean that the Palestinian state will continue to be based in Tunis?

[Al-Surani] Foreign activity will remain in Tunis. Because under the accord signed in Washington, the Palestinian authority is not entitled to have foreign relations. But the PLO has secured the recognition of 127 states, and we shall safeguard these relations and exploit them in the interests of our people inside and outside. Because it is unreasonable for Israel to be in charge of our relations with the world, especially as we have secured this international recognition through the sacrifices made by our people. [passage omitted]

[Khashanah] It is said that there are criticisms against granting Fatah sensitive posts....

[Al-Surani] First, no one disputes that Fatah is the mother organization. Second, those who get posts now are not the winners, because the early posts are very demanding. Anyhow, such talk did not take place at the Executive Committee's meetings. On the contrary, it asked everyone to participate, the Popular Front, Hamas, the Democratic Front....

[Khashanah] What will the Executive Committee's fate be after the formation of the authority and its entry into Jericho?

[Al-Surani] It will continue to exist and operate until the National Council elects a new Executive Committee at its next session.

## Partial List of National Authority Members Released

*NC1205174394 Paris AFP in English 1612 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Cairo, May 12 (AFP)—The partial list of Palestinian authority members announced on Thursday [12 May] by chief PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'th is as follows:

- Yasir 'Arafat, PLO chairman
- Zakariya al-Agha, head of Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction in Gaza
- Frayh Abu-Midyan, former president of the Gaza Bar Association
- Faysal al-Husayni, the leading PLO man in the occupied territories
- Hanan 'Ashrawi, former spokeswoman of the negotiating team
- Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian team to the bilateral talks
- Riyad al-Za'nun, head of the higher health council in the Gaza Strip
- Nabil Sha'th, PLO chief autonomy negotiator
- Yasir 'Amr, PLO executive committee member
- Intisar al-Wazir (Umm Jihad), widow of Arafat's second-in-command Khalil al-Wazir, who was killed in 1988
- 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, head of the Palestinian Democratic Union in the occupied territories
- Ilyas Furayj, mayor of Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank
- 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Haj Ahmad, a former deportee
- Ahmad Quray' (Abu-'Ala'), PLO economic departement chief
- Samir Ghawshah, Popular Struggle Front leader, PLO executive committee member

The authority is to take over on May 25, and 10 other members are to be announced.

### 'Urayqat: Committees To Manage Towns, Elections

*TA1305102394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 13 May 94*

[Text] Sa'ib 'Urayqat, who is a member of the Palestinian Autonomy Council, said that within a short time committees would be appointed to manage the Arab towns and villages inside the autonomous areas. These committees would make preparations to hold municipal elections within several months.

Sa'ib 'Urayqat confirmed to our correspondent Arye Gus that he had accepted the local government portfolio in the Autonomy Council. 'Urayqat, who is a Jericho resident, added that he was happy to see the Palestinian flag flying over the city. 'Urayqat nevertheless noted that the Palestinians still had a long way to go and many challenges to face.

### 'Arafat Continues Work on National Authority

*LD1205205494 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 May 94*

[Excerpt] President 'Arafat continued his consultations this morning in Tunis within the PLO and with Palestinian figures from the occupied territories.

These consultations are aimed at forming the transitional government of the self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. An official Palestinian source told AFP that this government will be installed in Jericho on 25 May in accordance with the final agreement on self-rule. [passage omitted]

### 'Arafat, IMF Delegation View Aid to Projects

*LD1205191294 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO, today received IMF's delegation, headed by (Dr. George al-'Abid).

During the meeting, they discussed a number of important issues, most importantly IMF's aid to the present Palestinian authority and the agreed projects that would bolster Palestinian national authority and strengthen the implementation of the first phase of the peace plan.

They also discussed issues of common interest in the Palestinian self-rule territories.

The meeting was an opportunity to review the peace process and the means of making it a success.

### PLO, UN Sign Cooperation Agreement in Tunis

*LD1205180094 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] A signing of an official cooperation agreement between the PLO and the UN program [as heard] took place in Tunis on 10 May.

The agreement was signed by Abu al-Lutuf, Palestine's foreign minister and head of the PLO's political department, for the Palestinian side.

### 'Abd-Al-Shafi Views 'Drawbacks' in Cairo Accord

*NC1205191094 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 May 94 p 5*

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, former head of the Palestinian delegation to Washington talks, by Sayyid 'Abd-al-'Ati in Gaza—date not given]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Ati] How do you view the events and developments that followed the Oslo agreement?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I would like to point out that I am independent; that is, I am not committed to any political faction. To avoid ambiguity, I am not an oppositionist, but I express my own views as a Palestinian citizen. I have expressed my opinion about the Gaza-Jericho agreement right from the start. I believe that my mission ended with the announcement of the secret talks in Oslo.

['Abd-al-'Ati] Dr. Nabil Sha'th has led the Palestinian negotiating team of the Cairo talks and you led the negotiating team of the Madrid process. Do you believe the change was intended to introduce more flexibility in the negotiations with the Israelis?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The change has come because the Palestinian leadership wanted it, and I do not want to comment on it. As for the choice of Nabil Sha'th, I believe that he has followed the leadership's instructions, but not out of conviction. The Cairo agreement itself did not tackle the Israeli claims about several issues.

['Abd-al-'Ati] How do you explain the fact that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories have not come out to express their views on the Cairo agreement?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The whole process has lost much of its credibility. Since September 1993, in many ways what had been told to the people about the agreement removing obstacles and opening the door for a just peace has turned out to be untrue. This is because the attitude and the practices of the Israeli Army remained unchanged. Their settlement activity still continues, as do the repressive measures. In brief, the reality refutes the words. As a result, the people are not pleased with the Cairo Agreement. Even the question of the detainees and their release has not been completed the way we would have liked. Israel turned the issue of the political detainees into a bargaining chip. All this has frustrated the Palestinian people.

['Abd-al-'Ati] In your opinion, what are the drawbacks to the Cairo agreement?

['Abd-al-Shafi] One of the negative points in this agreement is that it is subject to different interpretations. In the absence of equality in the balance of power, the stronger party will prevail. One of the most serious drawbacks is Israel's control of the crossing points in Rafah and at the Allenby Bridge. This means that Israel

will control all the borders and exit points of Palestine. We want peace to end the sufferings of our people. I disagree with the opposition, which is too emotional in handling the differences with the PLO.

['Abd-al-'Ati] Will you run in the coming elections after the establishment of the Palestinian Authority?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I do not rule out my participation in any coming elections when the Palestinian Authority is fully established. When elections are called, I will think about running. So long as the goal of every Palestinian is to ease the sufferings of his people, there is no justification for boycotting an election, if there is one.

### Hamas Rejects Conditions for Prisoner Release

*PM1205133094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 May 94 p 5*

[Unattributed report: "Hamas Rejects Israeli Conditions for Releasing Its Prisoners"]

[Text] Damascus, AL-HAYAH—The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) has refused to respond to the conditions set by Israeli authorities for releasing its prisoners from Israelis jails. It stressed that linking their release with its support of the Oslo agreement is "a one-upmanship rejected by our mujahidin."

Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, said that the movement "has decided not to accept the conditions set by Zionist occupation authorities for releasing our prisoners, namely to pledge not to return to what they termed the pledge to continue terrorist actions, and to support the capitulationist Gaza-Jericho agreement." Ghawshah added in a statement that "the detainees' release is a natural right which should not be linked to the required pledge. Because the resistance against the occupation is a legitimate right in all values and laws known to mankind. Thus it is not right to describe it as a terrorist action. Besides, the detainees cannot abandon a legitimate and national duty they are performing against the occupation."

### Hamas al-Qassam Battalions Claim 12 May Attacks

*JN1205163594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] The 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions, the military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has claimed credit for two attacks in which an Israeli soldier and a civilian were injured in the Gaza Strip today. These are the first two operations claimed by the movement since the singing of the Cairo agreement.

## Egypt

### Mubarak Comments on Yemen, Middle East, Other Issues

*NC1205181194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA)—President Mubarak has declared that Egypt is not prepared to send a single soldier to Yemen, either as part of a peace-keeping force or otherwise. He said Egypt only sends troops abroad when there is an international dispute and to achieve specific goals. He affirmed that what is happening in Yemen is an "internal issue."

In an interview with Radio Monte Carlo to be broadcast today, the president said: I am not prepared to lose a single individual in an operation that is "not right."

Mubarak added that he had contacted Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid and told them the Yemeni situation is not comforting. He said he asked them to disengage the troops for fear of a clash that might develop into an unmanageable armed conflict. Even if it could be managed, people will get killed and wounded and hatreds will emerge and trigger mutual vendettas and a guerrilla war might rage for years, Mubarak said.

The president added that the advancement of northern forces toward Aden will not solve the problem and the war will neither assist nor guarantee unity. War is a call for secession; it means occupation and so does entering Aden, he said, adding: The world will not view Yemen as a united country.

They are reassuring me that the issue will end, but in fact I do not see any hope, Mubarak said.

President Mubarak added that he is not against one side or the other. I am for peace, stability, and unity. The use of force will not lead to unity; it will light the fuse of retaliation, he said. The president asked: Is this in the general interest? Has the Arab world been afflicted with states that devour their neighbors? How can two states unite and then end up fighting each other?

Mubarak regretted what is happening, hoping that the two parties to the crisis will reach a solution, although he doubts this is possible. All that is happening is a result of the Gulf war, he remarked.

Touching on the Arab situation, Mubarak said that bringing Arabs back together will take a long time, because the Gulf war caused deep wounds.

He added that Egypt is trying and that the Palestinian president had met with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

The president added that he talked to the Gulf states and the situation with Jordan is slightly better now. He pointed out that the Gulf states are still bitter over what had happened. They believe that King Husayn was involved. But we are trying to clear the air, and the situation today is better than it was two years ago, he said.

The president pointed out that the invasion of Kuwait was a very serious matter for all Gulf states, particularly since information indicated that Iraq would not stop at Kuwait's invasion and that the situation would develop until it affected the entire Gulf region.

President Mubarak announced that Egypt opposes the partition of Iraq and that it sympathizes with the Iraqi people. However, it seems that the international community insists on continuing the sanctions on Iraq while President Saddam Husayn remains in power.

The president said: We are opposed to the removal of a head of state through the intervention of foreign powers. The people are the ones who should decide whether or not a president should stay in power. We could never accept a head of state being harmed by foreign forces. I have spoken to some countries about this issue.

The president affirmed that lifting the blockade of Iraq is not an easy process and will require time. The president added that he sympathizes a great deal with the Iraqi people, as do the Egyptian people.

Discussing the peace process in the Middle East, President Mubarak said that the question of Palestine is over 45 years old. Therefore, it is a very complicated issue and many new complications will emerge in the coming stages of the negotiations.

He added: It will not be easy for the Palestinian administration to manage affairs because it will take power after autonomy is actually implemented. However, it is the best option because it comes in close contact with the problems of the people. He said that the problem of settlements is another complicated matter. It was only natural for problems to crop up at the last minute during the ceremony for signing the autonomy agreement considering the nature of the problem. "The road is still long," because the Palestinian problem is more complicated than any of the other problems that fall within the Middle East issue.

President Mubarak said that the Gaza-Jericho Agreement is a first step. I was of the opinion that the Palestinians should first set foot in their territory. They can then start the confidence-building process with Israel so that the Israelis can feel at ease about their security, which is a very sensitive matter to them. The president affirmed that both president Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin made a very courageous decision in reaching this agreement. However, the situation still needs a great deal of time to reach the final solution.

Regarding the negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track, the president said that he hopes the two parties reach an agreement before the end of the year. He expressed his belief that the problem now is the lack of confidence

between Syria and Israel. Israel wants to know what it will get in return for the land and Syria wants to know what it will get in return for peace. The issue is one of confidence.

He added that the issue will take some time and that each party must gradually get to understand the other party. Perhaps the Syrian question is not as complicated as the Palestinian one because it involves only the Golan Heights.

The president said that Israel wants to fully normalize relations with Syria, which means opening the borders and establishing diplomatic relations. Normalizing relations requires some time, as was the case with Egypt and Israel.

Regarding Jordan, President Mubarak said: There are some issues such as the borders, but I believe that the Jordanian problem is on its way to being resolved.

President Mubarak was asked about the apprehensions regarding the Middle Eastern common market and fears that the Egyptian role in the region will diminish. He said: I have heard about the Middle Eastern market and a great deal has been said about it, without this market actually existing; but talk about it continues. In the final analysis, no one will impose anything on us, and nothing can happen in the region without our being fully convinced of it. In any case, Egypt will be at the top.

On the possibility that the terrorist operations taking place in Egypt from time to time might affect the country's democratic experience, President Mubarak said: No one can harm the democratic process in Egypt. Had this been possible, then these terrorists could have attained something.

The president added: We are keen on democracy and freedom. There has never before been freedom like that which exists in our country now, not even under, before, or after the monarchy. We are convinced that we are not working to "abort" democratic pluralism. What we are doing is in line with the Constitution and the law. I do not like to violate them at all, because I am establishing the bases for the future. I support freedoms even though some papers are not writing objectively. But I say let the people learn and get to know right from wrong and to discern good from bad.

President Mubarak went on to say: Studies to determine the public's situation began as soon as I took over. The infrastructure—such as the bad sewage system, electricity and water supplies, and the railroads—was minimal. The infrastructure had to be reformed so that we could get the investment we wanted but which investors were hesitant about. Hence, we held the economic conference in 1982 and this resulted in the plan we are proceeding with now, with amendments made from time to time. We started with the infrastructure and this continued for several years. We found out that we had the problem of slums—which began in the sixties—poor people, and unemployment, like all other countries.

President Mubarak said: When I took over, we had 500,000 telephone lines, including 300,000 that were not working. We now have three million lines and we can call Japan, the United States, anywhere in the world. We had the same problems with electricity.

The president explained that the infrastructure work cost too much and this caused us problems, but God made it easy for us. He said: Half the debts have been cancelled and we are now looking at priorities, such as the slums and unemployment. We have many new cities—that is, 13—where there is work.

Asked if the citizens can feel the state's confrontation with corruption, the president said: Corruption exists among human beings wherever they are. Egypt is one of the countries that suffers the least from corruption. There is not a single corruption case that the state has not monitored or followed. He added: I wish those who are talking about corruption would reform themselves first. Some people talk loudly about corruption in order to cover up their own corruption. But I do not want to mention any names.

The president said: I want you to name one country where there are only angels. Any government in any country has bureaucracy. In any country that has public money, those in charge know that they are held accountable.

Asked if some of the local leaders submit to extremists, President Mubarak said: This happens, but it is not a major phenomenon. The local government councils are all right and those in charge of them are conscientious. All the people are aware and make the right decision.

### Yemen's al-Bid Briefs Mubarak on Developments

*NC1205123594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call this afternoon from Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who is also leader of the Yemeni Socialist Party.

During the contact, al-Bid briefed President Mubarak on developments in the Yemeni arena in the past few hours.

### Papers View 'Catastrophe' in Yemen

*NC1305080094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0608 GMT 13 May 94*

[Text] Cairo, 13 May (MENA)—The Cairo papers, still riveted by the Yemeni crisis, write in their commentaries today that the situation in Yemen is an Arab catastrophe on a dangerous and ugly scale comparable with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the Lebanese civil war.

AL-AHRAM says there will be no vanquished and no victor in the current war in Yemen. In such senseless wars we all end up losing, and badly. The paper calls on

all Yemenis to listen to reason and seek a negotiated settlement that would save lives as well as resources.

The paper asks disapprovingly: How can dialogue be scorned by brothers at a time when it has been pursued by "sides that have known enmity for decades" and whose conflict has been more complicated and deep-seated?

AL-AHRAM says that there may be a grain of truth in claims that the Yemeni crisis is an internal affair. But this crisis is undeniably a general Arab and Islamic concern. We cannot be indifferent to the events in Yemen, because they constitute a painful blow to every Arab and Islamic tradition, the paper declares.

Writing on the same topic, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that one cause of the Yemeni crisis is that some Yemeni leaders tried to fiddle with the political balances in a newly united country that still lacked the mature political institutions that can withstand tinkering. Yemeni leaders, AL-JUMHURIYAH adds, adopted a tribal perspective and ditched time-tested procedures and norms.

With political acumen obviously lacking, the conflict is likely to take on a life of its own, AL-JUMHURIYAH predicts. No one in Aden is likely to honor any pledge of unity with those who besieged their city and threatened to take it by force. A lust for revenge has gripped Sanaa, with many ears deafened by the thunder of missiles and the buzz of planes, the paper concludes.

## Christopher Expected To Break Syria-Israel Deadlock

*NC1205133894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 12 May 94*

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: "Remaining Basic Problems Left on the Road to Real and Comprehensive Peace in the Middle East"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's return to the Middle East next week, just two weeks after his last visit to the region, indicates that the peace process in the region has entered a decisive stage.

The start of the implementation of the Declaration of Principles and the Gaza-Jericho Agreement on Palestinian self-rule a few days ago as a result of the efforts made by Egypt's political leadership represented by President Husni Mubarak emphasizes the need to achieve parallel progress on the other tracks in the peace process. The Syrian-Israeli track is the most important track and the Lebanese-Israeli track is closely linked to it. As for the Jordanian-Israeli track, there are no real problems facing it.

The U.S. secretary of state is returning to the region to try to break the deadlock on the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track. The track has been deadlocked since the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles was signed in Washington. There is not much that can be said about this track. The situation requires a major step by Israel. Israel must clearly express its acceptance of the principle of full withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights. The U.S. secretary of state carried new Israeli proposals to Damascus during his last tour of the region. Reports in the past two days indicate that Syria has not rejected these proposals but expressed reservations, as they did not explicitly refer to the principle of full withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan. Other reports have also indicated that Syria also has reservations over the timetable for withdrawal proposed by Israel.

In light of the above it can be said that the Syrian-Israeli negotiations hinge on an important step on the part of Israel, namely, to clearly express its agreement to withdraw completely from Syria's territory. As for Syria, all the reports indicate that it is ready to establish full peace with Israel in return for full withdrawal and to negotiate an agreement on mutual security guarantees without infringing on the rights or basic legitimate demands of either of the two parties.

There are strong indications that Christopher's next tour could break the deadlock in the Syrian-Israeli talks. We do not need to reiterate that Egypt is paying full attention to this peace track, the attention equalling that paid to the Palestinian-Israeli track.

The point that must be emphasized here is that while the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track has achieved a great breakthrough in solving the Palestinian issue—the core of the conflict between the Arab countries and Israel—some remaining problems on this track are still very complicated. The Israeli side has shown some flexibility in its stance on the settlements and indicated the possibility of abandoning them in the final stages. But its stance on other problems remains negative and could, if the intransigence is maintained, undermine the entire peace process despite the strenuous efforts to date. In this regard, we specifically mention the problems of Jerusalem and the refugees. Regarding Jerusalem, no one can foresee how things will develop if no agreement is reached on this issue that is acceptable to both sides and to all the parties concerned with this major issue and its uniqueness. As for the refugee problem, Egypt said before the multilateral talks refugees committee, which has been meeting in Cairo since the day before yesterday, that there will be no peace or stability in the region if this problem is not solved. This issue is subject to international resolutions that should be taken into consideration. Flexibility must be a principal element when dealing with this and other major issues during the peace process, which remains long, uneven, and fraught with dangers.

It is an accepted axiom that there is no alternative to peace, which continues to represent the future and hopes of all the peoples of the region, regardless of their nationalities.

## Prime Minister on Economic Growth, Terrorism

*NC1305044294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has affirmed that the government's policy is characterized by frankness and openness. He said that what Egypt has so far achieved is undeniable. Indications that the suffering has started to decrease are emerging and the country has started to reap the fruits of economic reform since it has completed the larger and more difficult part of it.

Dr. Sidqi clarified in statements to AL-AHRAM newspaper to be published in its issue of tomorrow, Friday, 13 May, that the infrastructure in Egypt, on which over 200 billion pounds has been spent, is ready and able to provide greater production bases for all aspects of Egyptian life.

He pointed out that the Egyptian economy grew annually by 6.2 percent during the first five-year plan and by 3.9 percent during the second five-year plan. Growth is expected increase during the third five-year plan to 5.1 percent, while the budget deficit will drop to less than 3 percent and inflation to 7 percent instead of 28 percent. This is something that no one was expecting.

Regarding the project of a thousand a day, by which the government proposed to realize some economic growth and ease the burden on the citizens, Dr. Sidqi said that the thousand a day project has not dwindled at all, as some parties are claiming. He pointed in this regard to international organizations' praise for this project.

On the revenue from the sale of the public sector companies, Dr. 'Atif Sidqi told AL-AHRAM that the revenue will be used as previously stated by the Government in reforming the structures of the public sector companies and in providing liquidity for them, which they are in desperate need of. The revenue will also be used in modernizing the equipment and developing production. At the same time, all this will be supervised by the specialized state organs.

Regarding democratic practices in Egypt, Dr. Sidqi said that freedom of the press, be it the national newspapers or the opposition, has gone beyond all expectations. Freedom of opinion is guaranteed for every citizen; and the deputies of the People's Assembly, both the supporters and opposition, interrogate every official about every point, small or major. The People's Assembly discussions are open to the public.

Dr. Sidqi contemplated the role of the Government in alerting the upcoming generations and opening the eyes of the youth about their religion, saying that this is being taken for granted. He stressed that the government does not make light of this matter. He clarified that what has happened is not due to the Government's failure to perform its duties, but was the result of misguidance of a small group under the cover of religion. He added that our guiding banner is the book, the Prophet's teachings, al-Azhar, and the men of religion who have been entrusted with affairs of religion.

The prime minister affirmed once again that terrorist groups are an alien element in Egypt and a phenomenon from which some foreign countries are not absolved, because they have exploited some of Egypt's difficulties to plant certain ideas among our youths, ideas alien to our religious thinking and our homeland, by giving money to these youths. He said awareness and guidance are wasted on such people.

## Security Officials To Note Efforts To Capture 'Terrorists'

*NC1205140494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has declared that within the next 48 hours details of security officials' efforts to apprehend a large group of terrorists, numbering more than 20, will be announced. He said that these terrorists are the accomplices of terrorist Tal'at Yasin Hammam, leader of the Islamic Group's military wing who was killed in the Kubri al-Qubbah this month.

In press statements today, the interior minister said that the announcement was to have been made a few days ago but was postponed following the discovery of new angles and important information that led to the arrest of more members of this group.

He stressed that there is full cooperation between Egypt and other countries through bilateral agreements, especially with countries where the phenomenon of violence and terrorism has appeared.

Addressing reports in some opposition papers about the lawyer who died after being arrested, the interior minister said the matter is being investigated by the prosecution office and legal measures are being taken. He added: We will announce the truth to everybody and nothing will be covered up.

In reply to a question on whether the Interior Ministry will set up an inquiry committee to investigate the incident, the interior minister said: We are investigating every issue that is being raised concerning the Interior Ministry. He noted that the police are always at the service of the citizens.

## Human Rights Organization Refutes Report on Detainees

*NC1205185794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1827 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA)—The Egyptian Human Rights Organization [EHRO] issued a statement today dismissing a foreign news agency report attributed to an EHRO member that said the number of political detainees in Egypt is between 20,000 and 30,000.

In its statement, EHRO said none of its officials had made such a statement during its news conference yesterday. EHRO stressed that the assertion that there are between 20,000 and 30,000 detainees is not true.

### Egyptian-Russian Trade Company Launched

*NC1305085694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 13 May 94*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 May (MENA)—The first Egyptian-Russian trade company for promoting Egyptian exports to the Russian and CIS markets has been established with a paid capital of $50 million and an issued capital of $200 million.

Abu-al-Sa'ud Sultan, head of the Egyptian-Russian trade section at the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Chambers, said the new company, which belongs to the private sector, will work to make a success of barter deals between Egypt and the Russian Federation and the CIS, with a population of 300 million. Most Egyptian companies lost the former Soviet market after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Sultan said the company will work to conclude many trade agreements with the Russians to restore part of this important market and raise Egyptian exports to their old figure of 1 billion Egyptian pounds. He noted that current exports to the Russian market are 25 percent of the old figure, while Egyptian imports from Russia stand at 1 billion pounds. [passage omitted]

### Minister Comments on Barter Contract With Libya

*NC1205203094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA)—Industry Minister Dr. Ibrahim Fawzi this afternoon attended the signing of a contract on a barter deal between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Libyan Jamahiriyah amounting to $100 million. This deal provides for exports of Egyptian products, including barley, manganese, [word indistinct], silicon, aluminum ingots, thermal alloys, cars, spare parts, electronic and engineering equipment, and household equipment. In return it will import ferrous products, reinforced steel, and some other products from Libya.

The contract was signed on the Egyptian side by Mr. Muhammad Abu-al-'Aynayn, head of the Arab Company for Developing International Trade—a joint Libyan-Egyptian company the capital of which is 50 million [Egyptian] pounds. The Egyptian side contributes 51 percent of the capital. Dr. Miftah 'Azzuz, head of the Iron and Steel Union in Libya, signed for the Libyan side. He also represents the Libyan Government in the joint company.

After the signing ceremony, the industry minister stated that the Libyan iron and steel products will be imported at Egyptian market prices in accordance to Egyptian specifications to prevent flooding of the market.

## Yemen

### Salih Orders Destruction of 'Partitionist' Fortifications

*JN1205204694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] The SABA' news agency has learned that brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has issued an order to Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur, the Defense Minister, to destroy all the partitionist fortifications in al-Dali' and Karish which were under the control of the forces loyal to the gang of rebellion and secession of the Yemeni Socialist Party leadership. The order was given after the forces of unity and legitimacy were able, with God's help, to control these positions and defeat the forces of the secessionist gang and remove them over the past few days.

It is worth mentioning that immediately after assuming control of the Mukayris area, our brave Armed Forces, the forces of unity and Constitutional legitimacy, destroyed all the partitionist fortifications as a symbolic expression of removing the most important remnants of the hated partition and as a moral consecration of unity, for whose sake our Yemeni people have struggled and for which they made great sacrifices, thus crowning their sacrifices with the restoration of the homeland's unity on 22 May 1990 and the proclamation of the Republic of Yemen.

### Citizens Residing in 'Vicinity' of al-Ahmar Gang Warned

*EA1205190894 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1650 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Respected listeners: Here is an announcement. The forces of unity, democracy, and modernization notify brother citizens residing in the vicinity of the bloody al-Ahmar gang and their supporters in Sanaa, Ta'izz, and al-Hudaydah to temporarily vacate in order to avoid injury arising from the crimes of the members of this bloody (?killer) family that ignited the fires of total war against our people and their honorable and loyal forces. The homes of this odious family are deemed to be military targets of the forces of unity, democracy, and modernization. The members of this family will be pursued, wherever they may be.

### Al-Bid Holds News Conference, Comments on Salih

*LD1205112294 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], stressed the illegitimacy of A'li 'Abdallah Salih as chairman of the Presidential Council, the illegitimacy of [words indistinct] in the Presidential Council, the illegitimacy of the speaker of the House of Representatives, and the illegitimacy of the Yemeni Reform Alliance group in the House of Representatives.

At a news conference in Aden yesterday evening, attended by representatives of local, Arab, and international press, brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid explained that legitimacy and constitution complement each other. He said that the constitution specifies that the Presidential Council will consist of five elected members; the five members of the Council should then elect their chairman after they have taken the constitutional oath. However, that did not happen because al-Bid has not yet taken the oath. Therefore, the chairman has been illegally appointed and has not been elected by a complete council as the constitution specifies.

As for 'Abd al-Majid al-Zandani, his membership of the Presidential council is illegitimate because he took an oath contradictory to the oath specified by the Constitution. The same applies to the speaker of the House of Representatives and those members of the Yemeni Reform Alliance parliamentary group, who took an oath contradictory to the one specified by the Constitution.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid condemned the declaration of the state of emergency by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, whom he described as a dictator. Brother al-Bid pointed out that the Constitution specifies that a state of emergency may only be declared following a resolution by the National Defense Council, which met only once three years ago.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid added that all the resolutions adopted by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih are illegal because they were issued in the name of an illegitimate chairman. He said: Legitimacy today is the legitimacy of national unanimity, represented by the document of pledge and accord, and we take our legitimacy from our people, national unanimity, and the higher interests of the homeland and their balance in society.

He explained that there are many details which could be specified to emphasize the illegitimacy of many of the existing institutions. He said: We will soon present [word indistinct] our opinion of the legitimacy.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid said: We are approaching the 21st century, but there are those who refuse to recognize human rights, who try to limit civilian life, and who work toward consecrating armament, and pulling us back to the middle ages. That is why these people have rejected the course of the document of pledge and accord and have imposed this war on us, by which they direct strikes and stab at Yemen, its unity, people, and national [word indistinct].

In his replies to questions from the correspondents about the military situation, brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid stressed that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the forces of the Al al-Ahmar gang are deployed along the past division lines in order to renew the secession. He also emphasized that the al-Amaliqah units stationed in Abyan did not enter it during the war but were stationed in that governorate for

four years, where they have their own camps. On the other hand, our units deployed in the Northern governorates were placed either in the same camps or neighboring ones. These camps were hit and destroyed.

He pointed out: When we approached unity we did not think of the military tactics of attacking it. We entered the union peacefully. Our aim is to construct our state in a peaceful and democratic way. We believed that the democratic forces and civilian life would influence and contain these military forces. However, in the end the military forces have disregarded everything, usurped freedom, opened detention camps, killed women and children, militarized the country, and spread terror and terrorism everywhere. This is the proof of their aggressive spirit and the inherited mentality of invasion in order to spread hegemony and [word indistinct].

The brother secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party reiterated that the aggressive way chosen by the dictator 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his gang will not succeed. He pointed out that a new situation has been created among our people, and that many units led by the Al al-Ahmar gang have been forced to fight their brothers, shell the cities and villages, and to kill and shed the blood of the innocent. Therefore, they are working toward severing the ties of fraternity, friendship, and unity among the sons of the Yemeni people, and they are destroying the union with their actions, which stem from a mentality of invasion, occupation and looting.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid said: We have exhausted all the means of [words indistinct] and accepted all solutions, but unfortunately we are today forced to defend ourselves in a war which is imposed on us. We consider ourselves (?bound) by the document of pledge and accord [words indistinct] this document.

He stressed: We stand by all the honorable patriots and all the good-intentioned forces in order to build a democratic Yemen, as a country on whose basis we agreed unanimously in the document of pledge and accord.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid called on all the soldiers and officers, whom the dictator 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih throws in the fire of death, to resort to reason and patriotism and to abandon that unpatriotic and inhuman course.

He emphasized loudly: Rest assured that Aden will be impregnable to the invaders.

## Al-Bid Continues Contacts With Arab Leaders

*EA1205211194 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, held telephone conversations with Jordanian King Husayn, the servant of the two holy mosques, Saudi Arabian King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He briefed them on developments in Yemen, particularly the military clashes. He commended the efforts being exerted by the Arab brothers to contain the war which was sparked off by the al-Ahmar clan against the people and unity.

## Speaker al-Ahmar Says Conflict 'Internal Yemeni Affair'

*PM1205153094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 May 94 pp 1, 4*

[Interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives, chairman of the Higher Committee of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, and chieftain of the Hashid tribes, by Hasin al-Bunyan in Riyadh; date not given]

[Text] Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, chairman of the Higher Committee of the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG], and chieftain of the Hashid tribes, has described 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Yemeni vice president and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], as "a mutineer like the secessionist John Garang in southern Sudan."

He said: "We are not bloodthirsty people, to say that in this current war our aim is to demand the head of 'Ali Salim al-Bid. It is our heads that the others want because we insist on preserving the unity of the country."

[Al-Bunyan] But you insist on occupying Aden. Do you find the way to Aden easy?

[Al-Ahmar] Who is insisting, and who fabricated and ignited the war? And do you think the way to Sanaa is easy?

[Al-Bunyan] But how far will you take the war?

[Al-Ahmar] Until we destroy the mutiny, prevent secession, preserve unity, and frustrate those who are banking on secession.

[Al-Bunyan] 'Ali Salim al-Bid says that he was the one who worked for and accomplished unity.

[Al-Ahmar] No, he evaded Ceausescu's fate and sought unity to save himself. So we said to him: Welcome.... After submitting his demands to us, which he thought would achieve secession for him, he fabricated and triggered the war to achieve his objective.

[Al-Bunyan] What is his objective?

[Al-Ahmar] His objective behind the war is secession because he failed to fulfill the old YSP ambition of ruling all Yemen their way. Now they want to go back to ruling the southern and eastern governorates which 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih left under their control throughout the transitional period.

'Ali Salim al-Bid tried to separate the southern governorates [from the north] in order to revive the secession, ignite the current war, and impose his terms which we

had accepted for the sake of unity. He had insisted on certain demands. When the Pledge and Accord Document was achieved, he again brought up his secessionist terms. When he failed he fabricated the war and resorted to war because he thought that the Arab states and the Arab League would intervene to stop the war and then he would be able to impose secession.

[Al-Bunyan] Would you accept Arab mediation?

[Al-Ahmar] We had disagreements before the unity. Why did the Arab states not try to send forces then, when we were two states? Now we are one state and no force has any right to intefere in the affairs of one state. This is an internal Yemeni affair.

[Al-Bunyan] What are your conditions for stopping the war or for the revival of the dialogue with the YSP?

[Al-Ahmar] Our condition is that there should be no bargaining as far as preservation of unity, constitutional legitimacy, and democracy are concerned, and, above all, the mutiny must end.

[Al-Bunyan] But 'Ali Salim al-Bid rejects 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's decisions dismissing him, al-'Attas, and some ministers.

[Al-Ahmar] He rejects them because he is a mutineer like John Garang in southern Sudan. We indeed regard him as a rebel against constitutional legitimacy. We had elected him as Presidential Council member but he cannot act legitimately as such and become a member before taking the oath which he and his mutineering clique refused to do although the election results were supported by the whole world.

[Al-Bunyan] Are 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's decisions legitimate and constitutional?

[Al-Ahmar] Of course they are legitimate because he is the head of state and supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

[Al-Bunyan] And is the head of 'Ali Salim al-Bid now the target of this war?

[Al-Ahmar] No, we are not bloodthirsty like them. It seems to me that it is they who want our heads because we insist on preserving unity.

[Al-Bunyan] There are conflicting reports about the position of the northern forces near Aden. What is the military situation now?

[Al-Ahmar] That is a matter for the military.

## Comments on Mediation

*PM1205155494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 May 94 p 4*

[Interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives and leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, by Sulayman al-Nimr in Riyadh on 11 May]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Nimr] Do you believe that the regime in Sanaa will continue the war, or will it accept mediation and dialogue with 'Ali Salim al-Bid?

[Al-Ahmar] It is illogical to hold a dialogue with the gang and the rebel leader. However, it is possible to hold a dialogue with the Socialist Party as a party and with the elements that are not bloodthirsty or rebellious, and with the elements that did not drag the country into this situation. In the end the Socialist Party is a political party, and we are committed to democracy and pluralism. [passage omitted]

[Al-Nimr] It has been reported that Yemeni Reform Grouping elements are fighting alongside northern forces against the Socialist Party's forces.

[Al-Ahmar] The war is still a military war. No civilians are taking part in it. The war is between the state and the rebels.

[Al-Nimr] Do you believe that tribes could intervene in favor of one party?

[Al-Ahmar] The tribes have not intervened so far, and we do not want them to intervene at all. [passage omitted]

[Al-Nimr] Do you agree to a cease-fire now?

[Al-Ahmar] We did not start the war.

[Al-Nimr] If mediation is offered to secure a cease-fire, will you accept it?

[Al-Ahmar] We will not turn down the mediation of any fraternal or friendly state, provided it is based on the fact that legitimacy cannot be harmed, democracy and unity cannot be harmed, and that the Army is the state's army, so it is impermissible for a section or a battalion of it to remain rebellious or loyal to any power other than the state.

## Al-'Attas Says Dismissal Decision 'Unconstitutional'

*NC1305060794 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 12 May 94*

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas with London MBC TV correspondent 'Aziz Fahmi, in Florida; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas has described the decision to dismiss him as unconstitutional. He said in an interview with an MBC correspondent in Florida, 'Aziz Fahmi, that the United States is continuing its contacts with him. He said the war constitutes a real danger for Yemeni unity.

[Al-'Attas] The declaration of war was clearly an act harming unity and breaking every bond between the sons of the Yemeni people. We did not expect our brothers in Sanaa to resort to such methods. This is why, as I have already said, they have portrayed the situation as an annexation of the south to the north. Their behavior shows that they are secessionists. With regard to the war, which totally contradicts unity, there can be no unity with war. Whatever the situation and whichever side's forces occupy the land of the other party, it cannot be seen as a victory.

[Fahmi] What is the constitutional stance on the presidential measures to dismiss you and all the southern officials?

[Al-'Attas] Undoubtedly, the measures are not constitutional. It is the right of the House of Representatives under normal circumstances to withdraw confidence from the government or from any minister. But the Presidential Council has no right to dismiss a minister or the prime minister. So this decision is not constitutional, even under normal circumstances, never mind in the circumstances in Yemen now, which are not normal.

[Fahmi] What is the U.S. Administration's stance on events in Yemen and has it accepted your dismissal as prime minister?

[Al-'Attas] We maintain dealings with the U.S. Administration and are still in contact with the U.S. State Department. In my meetings with State Department officials, since the start of the crisis they have expressed their dissatisfaction with the military course of the political crisis in the country. [end recording]

Later tonight, a U.S. State Department spokesman clarified to MBC that his country has adopted no stance on the position of al-'Attas, dismissed by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The U.S. official, who asked to remain anonymous, said that Washington is focusing on stopping the acts of aggression between the Yemenis and on finding ways for negotiations to be held between the north and the south to reach a peaceful solution.

## Basindwah on 'Southern-Born' Yemenis Keeping Positions

*JN1205180294 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 May 94*

[Interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah by Salim 'Ali Dhiyab in Amman on 12 May—recorded]

[Text] [Basindwah] I communicated to His Majesty King Husayn greetings from his brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and then related to him Yemeni developments from A to Z. I explained to his majesty ...

[Dhiyab, interrupting] Mr. Minister, have there been any Arab initiatives about Yemen?

[Basindwah] Mediation would be in order when you have two evenly matched sides. We are not after a military victory in order to force our control over all of Yemen. A political solution should be pursued, in the sense of securing the participation of citizens of the southern governorates in office. This is what the president intends to do—to let southern-born Yemenis keep the positions they had previously been allocated.

## Basindwah: 'We Will Never Fight Aden;' Mutiny Must End

*PM1305095094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 May 94 pp1, 4*

[Interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Husayn] Is your visit to Cairo in the context of the principle of reviving the mediation and ending the current war?

[Basindwah] I met with President Mubarak and handed him a written message from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to reassure him about the country's security and safety. I told him that what is taking place in Yemen is a case of a mutiny and a coup against constitutional legitimacy and that the north never sought the military option but it was imposed on us by the mutiny command, namely the leader of the Socialist Party [YSP] who violated constitutional legitimacy, compelling us to confront this and to confront the coup attempt made by him and his colleagues with the aim of destroying the country's unity. All the Yemeni people are with us, and the mutineers will be defeated. We do not want the Yemeni people to continue to bleed and pay the price for the losses currently sustained in the country. The price must be paid by the YSP leadership.

[Abu-Husayn] What is 'Ali Salim al-Bid's position now?

[Basindwah] You should ask him, if you can contact him. I believe he is now trying to find a place to flee to abroad.

[Abu-Husayn] Would the Yemeni leadership deal with him?

[Basindwah] We cannot deal with him. He should face a fair trial because he dragged Yemen to this tragedy and he must pay the price.

[Abu-Husayn] But Aden accuses the legitimate leadership in Sanaa of declaring war in a speech on 27 April.

[Basindwah] The conflict is not between the north and the south. It is between the legitimate leadership headed by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, with the people on his side, and the mutineers in the YSP leadership.

[Abu-Husayn] So, we have to ask you: How will the war end?

[Basindwah] There is no civil war at all. What is going on is an operation to repulse a rebel group.

[Abu-Husayn] Are we to understand that Sanaa is trying to enter Aden by resorting to the military option?

[Basindwah] That is not true. I am Yemen's foreign minister and I tell the truth which is the opposite of what the media is saying. We will never fight Aden. We are trying to end a mutiny. The mutineers will surrender and flee at any moment and calm and stability will be restored. The mutineering group must be brought to trial. Thy YSP's history provides evidence that it is bloodthirsty and its bloody practices have been going on for 30 years. So we certainly must take practical steps to settle the clashes, which means that the southern command should surrender the forces under its control.

[Abu-Husayn] Sanaa will today receive an Arab League delegation. What is the mission of that delegation?

[Basindwah] The Arab League delegation will not be visiting Sanaa for the purpose of mediation. An envoy of Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid was supposed to meet with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih before the fighting to be briefed on developments. As regards mediation and other such matters, everyone knows Sanaa's position on the Arab League's meeting and its rejection of any mediation by the League or anyone else on the grounds that what is taking place in Yemen is an internal mutiny and coup attempt against the country's constitutional legitimacy.

## Information Minister on Options for 'Secessionists'

*JN1305083594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2005 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Doha, 12 May (INA)—Information Minister Hasan al-Lawzi today said that the elements who ignited the military situation in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] must leave the country or stand trial.

In a statement over the telephone to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, al-Lawzi said that the opportunity is now open for the limited number of elements who ignited the situation to leave the country in order to spare the blood of the people and to stop destroying the country's resources.

He added that there is a chance for these elements, who are a minority in the YSP, to leave the country so that they will not cause any further losses in the southern governorates of Aden and Lahij.

He continued by saying: If they stay, these elements who are involved in the crime of engineering a secession and destroying the country must be interrogated and punished for violating the constitution and the law.

On Wednesday [11 May], President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih announced his willingness to give orders that would allow the secessionists to leave Yemen.

## GPC's Al-Iryani on Arab 'Interference,' Other Issues

*PM1305083694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 May 94 pp1,4*

[Report on interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni planning and development minister and member of the General Committee of the General People's Congress, by Hasin al-Bunyan in Riyadh; date not given]

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni planning and development minister and member of the General Committee (Political Bureau) of the General People's Congress [GPC], has declared that "Sanaa will continue the war until the mutiny against legitimacy led by 'Ali Salim al-Bid is defeated."

He said: "We will continue the war even for 100 years because we see nothing wrong with fighting in defense of constitutional legitimacy, until the mutiny falls."

He added: "We know that war is not easy and that the way to Aden to put down the mutiny will not be easy but whoever imposed that war must pay the price." He emphasized that "the only condition for stopping the war is to recognize the legitimate constitutional leadership and place all the armed forces under the command of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the supreme commander of the armed forces."

He said that Sanaa absolutely refuses to receive Arab forces to disengage the warring forces in Yemen. "We cannot possibly allow such interference because we are fighting an internal mutiny, fighting to end and put down that mutiny. Do the Arabs accept fragmentation of a homeland? Would any Arab country accept interference to end a mutiny in it?"

He added: "We welcome Arab mediation if it is within the context of fulfilling constititonal legitimacy and the context of dealing with the state of unity." He also said that 'Ali Salim al-Bid's rejection of the legitimate decisions dismissing him, al-'Attas, and some ministers is not important because he is, after all, a mutineer. He emphasized that the legitimate forces will continue the war and the fighting "because we are fighting for a cause. A mutineer has no cause. That is the difference."

Dr. al-Iryani stressed that the northern forces "have not retreated one inch on the Abyan front," and that "fighting is now raging in al-'Anad base, the last stronghold of the rebel forces." He said that the southern forces are

now concentrated in the area of al-'Alam, north of Aden, considered to be the city's first and last line of defense. He confirmed "the surrender to the legitimate forces of 550 officers and soldiers from al-Labwazah Brigade on the Kirsh front with all their arms equipment." Dr. al-Iryani also confirmed "the surrender of the southern 30th Brigade three days ago. That brigade no longer exists in the Abyan Governorate and al-'Urqub area." He added that he contacted Sanaa yesterday and was assured that "al-'Amaliqah Brigade has not retreated from its positions in Zinjibar and Mudiyah and that it is there in full strength." He emphasized that "not a single gun, tank, or piece of arms was lost on the Abyan front. These forces are now advancing towards al-'Alam area."

On the conflicting reports on how close the northern forces are to Aden, al-Iryan affirmed that these reports did not come from military sources, but he said that forces from Khalid Camp, al-Wahdah Brigade, and the 125th Brigade are occupying the area of Kharaz west of Aden.

### Oil Minister Sees Arab Intervention as 'Acceptable'

*PM1205152294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 May 94 p 6*

[Interview with Oil Minister Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun by Shafiq al-Asadi in Abu Dhabi on 11 May]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Asadi] The northerners say they have captured al-'Anad base and reached the approaches to Aden.

[Bin-Husaynun] Al-'Anad has not been captured, nor have northern forces reached Dar Sa'd, as 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council, and Planning Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani said. Maybe they do not know what is happening on the battlefield. It can be said that their claim is absolutely baseless. They must know that it is very difficult to reach Aden, perhaps not in their time, nor will it be by force. [passage omitted]

[Al-Asadi] What is your opinion of the decision to dismiss you from the cabinet?

[Bin-Husaynun] I do not recognize a decision of that kind, because those who made it do not enjoy legitimacy. The legitimacy collapsed on 27 April after the declaration of war on the Yemeni people. Anyone who declares war on his own people does not deserve or have any legitimacy.

[Al-Asadi] Do you believe there has been Arab interference in current events in Yemen?

[Bin-Husaynun] I believe that some elements from some Arab states are participating alongside northern forces in the fighting. It has been stated that there are some Iraqis and Sudanese elements on the battlefield.

[Al-Asadi] Aden reports said today (Wednesday) that northern aircraft are using Sudanese airports to bombard targets in the south....

[Bin-Husaynun] The relationship between Khartoum and Sanaa and between President 'Umar al-Bashir and 'Abd 'Abdallah Salih shows Sudan's support for the northern forces which have declared war on the Yemeni people. We regret these matters and hope that Arab brothers will not become a party to this conflict. If they cannot contribute to resolving the crisis and securing a cease-fire, they should stay neutral.

[Al-Asadi] What is your interpretation of the north's offer of an immediate cease-fire, provided Aden accepts the legitimacy?

[Bin-Husaynun] That is up to them. Sometimes they accept and other times they do not. But conditions are not conducive to a cease-fire. Some say that a cease-fire should be announced first, and then a dialogue at the negotiating table should begin. For our part, we have decided to accept a cease-fire and responded to the appeal made by some brothers. This is because of the Socialist Party leadership's keenness to spare Yemeni blood, not as a result of weakness.

[Al-Asadi] So do you accept the intervention of Arab forces to disengage the warring forces?

[Bin-Husaynun] Any initiative or effort to stop the fighting, return to dialogue, and implement the Pledge and Accord Document is acceptable.

[Al-Asadi] Including the dispatch of Arab forces to Yemen?

[Bin-Husaynun] We are talking about any effort, including the intervention of Arab forces. [passage omitted]

### Delivers al-Bid Message to UAE Leader

*EA1305080594 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Brother Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, minister of oil and mineral resources, has conveyed a message from brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and vice chairman of the Presidential Council, to his brother, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the sisterly United Arab Emirates. It concerns the latest developments of the situation in Yemen. The message was conveyed last night when Shaykh Zayid received brother Bin-Husaynun in Abu Dhabi, who confirmed the YSP's stance and its complete adherence to the pledge and accord document.

For his part, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan again stressed the importance of stopping the ongoing fighting in Yemen and of resorting to dialogue to reach a

political solution in order to preserve Yemeni unity in a manner which guarantees the interests of the Yemeni people.

### Oil Minister Visits Syria's al-Asad, Conveys Message

*EA1205211794 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, minister of oil and mineral resources, arrived in Damascus earlier today on a visit to Syria during which he will convey a message from brother 'Ali Salim al- Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, to his brother Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The message concerns the incidents and developments in our country after the outbreak of war. Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received brother Salih Bin-Husaynun this morning in Cairo. The Egyptian MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY stated today that brother Bin-Husaynun had presented at the meeting, a full report on current events and military clashes in Yemen.

### Wrapup of Reports on Battles, Casualties

#### North Controlling al-Dali'

*JN1205154694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Sanaa, 12 May (INA)—Information Minister Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi today said Yemeni forces have taken the strategic town of al-Dali', more than 100 km north of Aden.

In a press statement, al-Lawzi said the fall of al-Dali' means the end of one of the important military arsenals and zones the secessionists had relied on.

#### Aden Denies Sanaa al-Dali' 'Rumors'

*EA1205225894 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 May 94*

[Excerpt] Informed military sources in Aden have denied Sanaa's rumors that its forces today managed to take complete control of the al-Dali' area and that they captured a large unit of the forces of the Abud Brigade which are concentrated there. These sources stated that this is completely false and confirms the continuation of battles in that area. The forces of unity, democracy, and modernization are waging energetic defensive battles against the forces of the bloody al-Ahmar gang despite the intensity and savagery of the artillery, rocket and air attacks on the villages of al-Dali' province.

The sources also found it strange that the media of the ruling gang in Sanaa continue to talk about besieging Aden and that the entry of forces into Aden is subject to a political decision. This is (?nonsense) and [word indistinct] that no mind belies, nor does logic accept. [passage omitted]

#### Former Border Areas Said Under Aden Control

*EA1205171594 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Following a fierce battle in which the soldiers of the army of unity, democracy, and modernization emerged as heroes performing deeds of bravery unprecedented in our people's history, our forces succeeded in completely routing the foolish and [word indistinct] forces of the bloody al-Ahmar gang, forcing them to retreat to their rear positions in the direction of Qa'tabah.

Many members of the latter forces had earlier surrendered and joined the ranks of our forces, having been forced into the war by the al-Ahmar gang by various immoral means. Our forces are now in complete control of the entire areas of al-Dali' and Shu'ayb, having captured or put to flight the forces of the adventurist al-Ahmar gang. In the Bab al-Mandeb Kharaz area, our forces succeeded this morning in repulsing the offensive of the oppressive forces of the treacherous gang of the al-Ahmar clan, forcing them to retreat to their rear positions after driving them out of the Ra's al-Arah and the Kahabup center areas. Our forces are currently in control of this area, which is in the region of the former border existing before the union.

The Defense Ministry has expressed conviction that victory will soon be won and the destructive and oppressive war declared by the so-called 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on 27 April 1994 will soon be silenced.

#### Defense Ministry Comments

*JN1205201594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 May 94*

[Statement issued by "responsible military source" at the Defense Ministry in Sanaa on 12 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful:

The heroes of our Armed Forces, with support and success from God, continue to fulfill their valiant missions in the battles of confrontation against the forces of rebellion and secession on all axes and sectors, inflicting on the deceived forces, which are [word indistinct] paid by the secessionist and criminal elements in the Socialist Party leadership, heavy losses on all axes and sectors.

On the al-Tali'-al-'Anad sector, the valiant Armed Forces—supported by the honorable citizens in al-Dali' who stood on the side of unity, democracy, and Constitutional legitimacy—managed to cleanse the various pockets in al-Dali' district in general. The center of the district, the city of al-Dali', was returned to Constitutional legitimacy. The remaining soldiers, NCO's, and officers from the 'Abbud Brigade surrendered to the forces of unity and Constitutional legitimacy. Quantities

of weapons, ammunition, and military equipment, stored in the military pockets in this [word indistinct], were seized.

Our Armed Forces on the southwestern axis, al-'Anad-(?al-Hayla) sector, managed to engage with the forces opposing Constitutional legitimacy in parts of the al-'Anad Camp fortifications, inflicting heavy losses on various equipment and weapons. Our forces on that axis, which were deployed in (?Kharad), were able to rearrange their situation to prepare for continuing their combat missions.

On the Abyan-Aden axis, our valiant Armed Forces were able to counter the hostile offensives and inflicted heavy losses on the troops of the secessionist and rebellious forces, forcing them to retreat in defeat. On that axis, our forces seized a number of T-62 tanks. The air defense heroes also downed a combat aircraft.

With a courageous confrontation and high vigilance, the Armed Forces foiled the futile encircling attempt by units from Taysir Brigade and what remained of the al-Wahdah Brigade and the 30th Brigade. Our valiant Armed Forces destroyed and seized 21 T-55 tanks, four BMP armored vehicle, three (?Shilfa) vehicles, three 14.5 (?systems), two BMP-21 vehicles, and 18 trucks. Our Air Force also carried out successful air raids against the formations of Taysir Brigade and inflicted heavy losses on it.

Our Air Force also carried out air raids against 'Ataq airport, Shabwah Governorate. Our planes returned safely to base.

In general, fatigue is overwhelming all units of the troops loyal to the secessionist and criminal elements in the Socialist Party. This is apparent in their suicidal, destructive acts which cannot be justified by any sound military logic, except by the fact that they may believe the fabricated lies that are broadcast by the media of the secessionist, renegade gang that is hostile to the people, the homeland, unity, and democracy. There is a great difference between what is happening in the field on all axes and what is announced by those who are hiding behind the citizens and the economic, services, and strategic installations in Aden. Lies do not live long.

Here, we reaffirm our call to all brother officers, NCO's, and soldiers in the units that are still under the control of the secessionist, rebellious forces. They still can return to the trench of right and reject the dictatorial orders they are given to fight their suicidal, futile battle. Positions of honor and dignity in the Armed Forces, the forces of unity and Constitutional legitimacy, await them so that they can join their brothers in the Armed Forces and all children of our Yemeni people against the enemies of life, the enemies of unity, democracy, and the enemies of the march of unity and progress.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. And soon the unjust assailants will know what vicissitudes their affair will take.

## ARB'AT'ASHAR: 'Stable Conditions' in Aden Region

*EA1205193594 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 12 May 94*

[From the press review]

[Text] The daily ARB'AT'ASHAR 14 OCTOBER newspaper continues to publish reports on the current developments and the war launched by the bloody al-Ahmar gang against the armed forces of the unity and democracy. It published reportages about the damages caused by the shelling of the residential apartments.

One of the reportages was written about the calm and tranquil situation in Dar Sa'd. It was compiled by a press and television team which came to Aden to cover the war events. The newspaper said in the reportages that one of the correspondents talked to the soldiers who were guarding the gates of al-Anad camp. The journalist described the stable conditions in this region thanks to the armed forces of the country and democracy which are controlling in the battlefield [sentence as heard].

The journalist wondered about the lying information which falsifies the facts and confuses the people and [words indistinct]. He said: Such media deserve to be described as lying media, because it presents false information about the situation. He said: All information we have heard from the Sanaa media to the effect that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's forces had captured al-Dali' is untrue.

## House Statement Condemns 11 May Scud Attack

*JN1205144094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] The House of Representatives met this morning in an ordinary session chaired by brother Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, a member of the office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. After reviewing and ratifying the minutes of the previous session, the House conducted a lengthy and responsible discussion of conditions in our country. The House issued the following statements:

Thanks be to God, whose blessing we beseech in calamity, and who says in the Holy Koran: All believers are brothers; and who also says: There is the type of man whose speech about this world's life may dazzle thee, and he calls God to witness about what is in his heart; yet he is the most contentious of enemies. When he turns his back his aim everywhere is to spread mischief throughout the Earth and destroy crops and cattle, but God loveth not mischief. [Koranic verse]

In its Wednesday, 11 May 1994 session, the House of Representatives discussed the ugly crime committed by Socialist Party outlaws who used long-range missiles to strike civilian targets, murdering and terrorizing women, children, the elderly, and the disabled who were asleep in their homes. These missiles, paid for with the food and sweat of our people, struck them and tore apart their

bodies. They had committed no crime, except for their love of unity and their support of Constitutional legitimacy and political pluralism, yet they were murdered.

In the light of this, the House decided the following:

1. To strongly condemn this crime committed by Socialist Party outlaws and to hold the perpetrators completely responsibile. The crime reveals the extent of the hatred harbored by these criminals and the scope of their terrorist acts against the Yemeni people. They want to achieve their selfish interests by killing the innocent and destroying the people's structures and achievements in unity, democracy, and peace.

2. The House considers these crimes to violate Islamic values and teachings, as well as international and humanitarian norms that forbid the murder of the elderly, women, children, and the disabled. These savage acts are ugly war crimes and high treason directed against God and the homeland. Its perpetrators deserve the severest punishment.

3. The House urges all members and segments of society, its political forces and its popular organizations to denounce and condemn these ugly crimes and to defend unity, democracy, pluralism, and Constitutional legitimacy, which guarantee the security and stability of Yemen and its people. The House urges the Arab, Muslim, and world public opinion and all international organizations and honorable forces concerned with the defense of human rights to denounce and condemn these crimes.

4. The executive power must take all necessary legal and Constitutional steps to deter these murderers and bring them to justice and to apply the necessary legal, and deterrent punishment against them.

5. The House urges the government to take the steps necessary to provide full care for the families of the victims of the Scud missiles and to consider these victims martyrs of unity, democracy, and legitimacy.

The House stresses that Yemen and its unity, which was built by the blood and sweat of its people, is invulnerable to enemies and will remain an illuminating torch protecting national, pan-Arab, and Islamic security. It stresses that victory will, God willing, be for unity and unionists.

The House urges unionists in the Socialist Party, both the civilian and military, to support Constitutional legitimacy and reject these criminal acts.

The mercy of God be upon our pure martyr. God spare our country any evil. From God we seek support.

The Republic of Yemen's House of Representatives noted the responsible and sincere positions taken by some Arab parliaments that support Yemeni unity, which was achieved thanks to God almighty and the Yemeni people's long struggle, and which is considered a candle lighting the path of Arab and Muslim unity.

The House highly praises the position of the House of Representatives in fraternal Jordan, as well as the other Arab parliaments, and the sincere statements they issued in support of Yemeni unity and Constitutional legitimacy, which the advocates of apostasy and secession in the Socialist Party's leadership tried to violate in an attempt to push the country into the furnace of a destructive and all-out war on all levels.

Since the start of the crisis fabricated by that gang, who are violating Constitutional legitimacy, the House has been stressing the need to preserve the achievements of unity and democracy in Yemen. It considers them achievements of the Arab and Muslim nations. The House, therefore, urges Arab parliaments and regional and international organizations to denounce and condemn the use by the secessionist gang of the Socialist Party of weapons of mass destruction against civilians in certain Yemeni cities, including the capital of Yemeni unity, Sanaa, and Ta'izz and al-Hudaydah.

The House appeals to fraternal and friendly parliaments and regional and international organizations to motivate their governments and media to adjust the way they view the events in the Yemeni arena. This must be seen as an internal affair between Constitutional legitimacy and the rebellious gang, and not a war between north and south, as some people, intentionally or unintentionally, are saying.

We beseech God to protect our country from any evil and protect all of our Arab and Muslim countries from any harm. We beseech him to grant peace and stability to the entire world. From God we seek success.

## GPC Statement Denounces 'Butcher' al-Bid

*JN1305065794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 May 94*

["Statement" issued by the General Committee of the General People's Congress in Sanaa on 12 May]

[Text] Masses of our Yemeni people: The serious historic and national challenge facing the unity requires all of us and all of the homeland's well-intentioned unionist forces and the masses of our Yemeni people in all sectors to confront the grave conspiracies. These conspiracies are led by the forces of apostasy and secession from among the leaders of the Socialist Party against unity and constitutional legitimacy and against the people and their will, as expressed on 27 April 1993.

Defending this land is defending the honor and dignity of this homeland, its independence, sovereignty, and national, democratic regime. This is being done today by our Armed Forces, the forces that protect constitutional legitimacy and democracy, on all battlefields. This is also being done by the masses confronting the forces of apostasy, treason, and secession led by the leaders of the Socialist Party, who have for nine months—since 19 August—been maneuvering under various contradictory and misleading pretexts in the hope of buying more time to prepare for achieving their objective of secession, planned by the gang of apostasy and treason, led by the butcher 'Ali Salim al-Bid. Al-Bid has savored maneuvering. He also wants to satisfy his lust to serve the

objectives of his masters, who plot against and betray the homeland to slaughter its unity.

The best evidence of this is the firing of destructive Scud missiles against defenseless citizens in the cities of Sanaa, Ta'izz, al-Rahidah, and other cities by the gang of criminality, apostasy, and secession. This claimed the lives of many victims, including women, children, and elderly people, and terrorized defenseless citizens in their homes and cities.

The criminal, cowardly actions of the forces of apostasy and secession represent terrorist, savage, and brazen actions and reflect a vindictive Nazi [as heard] sentiment and destructive, adventurist mentality that has ignited the fire of sedition all over the homeland. Thus, they started firing missiles indiscriminately at cities and secure residential quarters in Sanaa, Ta'izz, and other Yemeni cities.

The General Committee of the General People's Congress [GPC] shares with the masses of our people their pain over these inhuman, immoral crimes. The General Committee strongly denounces these criminal, savage acts that are carried out by the gang of apostasy, secession, and treason in the Socialist Party leadership. It appeals to public opinion, political forces, parties, and organizations and national unions, societies, and figures to adopt a clear, frank, and responsible position by denouncing these reckless, criminal acts carried out by the gang of destruction, death, treason, rebellion, and terrorism in the Socialist Party leadership.

The General Committee of the GPC urges the sons of our people to stand firmly by the side of the Armed Forces, the forces of unity and legitimacy that are storming the dens of treason and apostasy and secession. It calls on the masses of our Yemeni people to demonstrate even greater unionist cohesion to face this secessionist gang and oppose its criminal actions and misleading propaganda.

The General Committee of the GPC also urges the members of the Armed Forces, including officers and troops who were misled by the leadership of apostasy and secession in the Socialist Party leadership, to side with legitimacy, defend unity and democracy, and respect the national principles of society.

The General Committee also appeals to all unionist forces in political parties, organizations, unions and associations, particularly the unionist elements within the Yemeni Socialist Party, to spell out their position toward this gang and the destructive results of its actions on the homeland, society, and national unity. The homeland is paramount to everyone and is the property of all; the responsibility of protecting it from destruction and sabotage, along with its achievements and projects over three decades, is the responsibility of all citizens, regardless of their political persuasion.

The reckless, criminal acts carried out by the spiteful, secessionist gang, as well as its hysterical, stupid, irresponsible acts, will only increase our people's determination to go ahead and make more achievements for unity and constitutional legitimacy and to provide security and stability all over the homeland.

The General Committee reasserts what was said by the brother chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the GPC, in his speech yesterday: We are not against the Socialist Party but against the separatist, apostate elements within the Socialist Party leadership that are waging a losing war and shedding innocent blood. The unionists in the Socialist Party should spell out their position clearly toward this criminal gang and should rally around unity and constitutional legitimacy and reject the decisions of the secessionist gang that declared war. They should spell out their position for the sake of bridling war and ending more bloodshed.

The General Committee of the GPC also stresses what was said by the brother chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the GPC: We reject war in all its aspects and forms and do not want to have a victor or vanquished. The war was imposed on us. We are fighting so that the will of the people for security, stability, and social peace will triumph and bring constitutional legitimacy.

The General Committee of the GPC holds the criminal al-Bid and his treasonous gang that conspired against the homeland, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy fully responsible and asserts that the shelling of residential quarters in Sanaa, Ta'izz, al-Rahidah, and other cities will not go unpunished. Our people will take to task all those adventurers and traitors who have departed from the ranks of the people, its unionist will, and democracy.

And soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affair will take. [Koranic verse]

Issued by the General Committee of the GPC

### Reform Grouping Denounces 'Secessionists' Missile Attacks

*JN1205210994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] A responsible source in the Yemeni Reform Grouping has expressed denunciation and condemnation of the grotesque crimes perpetrated by the secessionists in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and their use of internationally banned missiles which they directed at heavily populated residential areas inhabited by unarmed citizens. The latest of these missile is the one fired at Sanaa area on Wednesday which killed 23 martyrs and injured 30 others.

The source added that this heinous crime demonstrates the sick minds of the YSP secessionists, the continuing bloody policy by which they have been known throughout their rule, and the oppression of our brothers in the southern and eastern governorates. This suicidal action demonstrates the level of despair of the YSP secessionists and their state of collapse.

Concluding its statement, the source said that such criminal acts, which are not justified by any religious, conventional, or moral standard, cannot pass unpunished. We appeal to all

citizens to keep calm and not to worry as a result of these actions, despite their ugliness. We ask citizens to make these actions a motive for further cohesion and unity among all. We pray to God to steer the country and Yemeni people everywhere away from harm and afflictions and to have mercy on the souls of the martyrs and speed the recovery of the injured.

God is our supporter.

### Sanaa: U.S. Embassy, EU Denounce Missile Attacks

*JN1205142294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] The U.S. Embassy in Sanaa today issued a statement on the current events in the country. The statement says: The Embassy of the United States of America strongly denounces and condemns any use of missiles and weapons of mass destruction in the current conflict, as this will result in civilian casualties. It calls for the cessation of the use of such weapons. The statement explains that the continued hostilities will lead to more civilian casualties on both sides.

The German Embassy, representing the European Unity [EU] chairmanship in Sanaa, issued an EU statement, saying: The ambassadors of EU member states to the Republic of Yemen deeply regret and denounce any use of missiles and illegitimate weapons in the ongoing conflict, as this will result in casualties among the civilians. They urge the immediate cessation of the use of such weapons. The statement explains that reliable reports have been received about civilian deaths and injuries as a result of the use of such weapons.

### Sides Exchange Accusations of Enlisting Foreign Help

*PM1205151694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 May 94 p1*

[Reports by 'Abdallah Hammudah and Lutfi Shatarah in London, Naji al-Harazi in Sanaa, Salwa al-Ustuwani in Damascus, and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau in Aden: "Socialist Party Deputies Hold Session in Aden"]

[Excerpts] Sanaa and Aden yesterday intensified their Arab contacts in an attempt to explain their positions in the war in Yemen, in a race with the actual fighting in which armor, aircraft, and missiles are being used to create a fait accompli on the ground that would help either of the two sides to settle the conflict in its favor by political or military means while keeping Arab channels of contact open.

Meanwhile, the deputies of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] in the House of Representatives and a number of independent figures have decided to hold a meeting in Aden today. [passage omitted]

All this is taking place while each side is accusing the other of enlisting the help of foreign powers. Sanaa sources have stated that "an Arab state that is not a neighboring state has provided facilities at its airports for the southern air forces." Aden, on the other hand, has accused Eritrea of placing its airports at the disposal of the northern command and claimed that two ships have arrived at al-Hudaydah port loaded with Iraqi arms from Port Sudan.

According to YSP sources, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Akwa', President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's brother-in-law, or Ahmad al-Hajari may have arrived in Baghdad via Jordan in the company of someone by the name of al-Khawlani, to request additional arms (missiles and planes) which are now in Sudan having been taken there during the Gulf war. [passage omitted]

### Commentary Assails Long-Range Missile Attacks

*JN1205200694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1751 GMT 12 May 94*

[Unattributed commentary from the "Issues and Events" program]

[Excerpt] The firing of missiles by the gang of secession and apostasy on the capital, Sanaa, and on Ta'izz has no worthwhile result but to claim the lives of innocent people and terrorize defenseless citizens. Those who are perpetrating this criminal act know long-range missile attacks will never affect the current military situation or the outcome of the military operations raging only a few kilometers from Aden, where the gang of secession and apostasy is standing in trenches. The only option for this gang is to surrender, leave the homeland and enjoy the public funds it has looted, or commit suicide.

Despite the fact that the missiles have harmed a number of citizens, martyring some of them in the capital, Sanaa, and in the city of Ta'izz, they have not adversely affected the psyche of the forces struggling to protect unity and defend constitutional legitimacy. This is because the forces of unity have a human and geographic depth, thus making them more steadfast and stronger. Moreover, all members of these forces enjoy resolve and unwavering faith in victory.

We say without exaggeration that the cowardly missile attacks on the capital, Sanaa, and on Ta'izz will only increase the determination of the sons of our proud Armed Forces to move forward until they arrest the rebellious gang of apostasy and secession. These forces are struggling for unity and for defending Constitutional legitimacy. The people's sons are waiting to hold this gang to account for what it deserves for the crimes it has committed against the people and their resources.

The missile attacks on the capital, Sanaa, and on Ta'izz have revealed both the impotence and the grudge of the gang of apostasy and secession. This gang knows well that these missiles cannot affect the course and results of the military operations whose theaters have approached the outskirts of Aden. [passage omitted]

### Legitimacy Forces 'Stone's Throw' From Secessionists

*JN1205110894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1001 GMT 12 May 94*

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O sons of our lofty Yemeni people: The forces of apostasy and secessionism know that their dens and houses in beloved Aden are only a stone's throw from the rifles of the forces of unity and legitimacy. However, the unity forces's concern and ethical and religious commitments make them dutybound to safeguard the lives of innocent people. The grudges and bloody whims of these secessionist forces as well as their Communist missiles will make our people and army of unity and legitimacy more concerned about our fathers, mothers, and sons in beloved Aden, al-Dali', and other areas.

Therefore, we would like to reassure our people in beloved Aden and in other areas that the army of unity and legitimacy does not harbor grudges or seek liquidation. This army will put before everything the welfare of all fathers, mothers, and defenseless children wherever they are in Yemen. Their unity army, which fully abides by the values of Islam, will only behead, with its iron hand, the separatists who tampered with Aden and with all (?lofty) southern governorates and their good people for approximately 30 years. It is a blessed advance toward a new Yemen which is free of secessionist butchers, God willing.

We only ask that our brother citizens in the beloved Governorates of Aden and Lahij remain calm, do not cooperate with the gang of apostasy and separation, and do not respond to their separatists.

### Former President Puts Forward Peace Initiative

*NC1205202994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Damascus, 12 May (MENA)—Former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has affirmed that the road to understanding, dialogue, and national reconciliation in Yemen is not closed yet in spite of the ferocity of the ongoing battles.

In an interview with a MENA correspondent in Damascus, Muhammad said that he put forward an initiative to resolve the Yemeni crisis and that he is consulting about it with some personalities who are not involved in the current dispute.

He added that if these personalities and the parties to the dispute respond to this initiative, he is willing to go with these personalities to Sanaa or Aden to stop the bloodletting and save unity.

He stressed that any efforts, suggested solutions, or initiatives to resolve the Yemeni crisis must be based on the principle of safeguarding the Yemeni unity, not on returning to the situation that prevailed before 22 May 1990.

The former Yemeni president pointed out that he had presented several initiatives last year and this year and that he warned earlier against turning conflicts among the members of the ruling coalition into the funeral pyre of unity.

He regretted what is going on in Yemen, reaffirming his backing for every effort to safeguard unity and resolve the conflict through dialogue and peaceful methods. He noted that what is happening at present does not help the two sides to have a peaceful dialogue.

Commenting on the appointment of a defense minister and a navy commander from among his old loyalists, he remarked that his loyalists who went to Sanaa with him after the January 1986 incidents were divided between the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party, after these two partners had (?aborted) the setting up of a democratic unionist party during the honeymoon that preceded unity. He pointed out that this was the choice of his loyalists and that it was not planned.

Muhammad affirmed that appointments to party and government posts are according to the prevailing political rules and that he has nothing whatsoever to do with these appointments. He remarked that accepting an appointment is the personal choice of the person selected for a post.

### Philippine Workers 'Only Ones Left;' Fear for Safety

*BK1205111194 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0930 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] The Philippine overseas contract workers [OCW's] trapped in Yemen have been waiting for five days to be repatriated to the Philippines. In an interview with GMA Radio, a Philippine OCW identified as Josie Oliva said they have been advised to return home immediately. According to Oliva, she and 30 other OCW's are safe and are staying at the Sheraton Hotel. She fears that if they are unable to leave today, their lives may be in danger.

In this connection, the Department of Foreign Affairs has revealed that two C-130 planes from the Philippine Air Force are set to fly to Yemen to retrieve the Phlippine OCW's once a landing permit is secured.

[Begin Oliva recording, in progress] ...as of now we are safe; we have not yet been affected in any way. But we do not know about tomorrow; we do not know what will happen tomorrow. They have already advised us to get out because we are the only ones left here. As I mentioned before, all other nationals have been rescued by their respective governments. Only the Philippine Government has not acted. We are still okay, including my brother and my uncle, but we do not have any outside contact. We cannot communicate because there is no international line available here. [end recording]

### 'Aziz: Talks With Security Council President 'Fruitful'

*JN1205190294 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz held a meeting with Ibrahim Gambari, the Security Council's president and Nigeria's UN representative, at the United Nations headquarters today, Thursday, morning.

Following the 40-minute meeting, 'Aziz told reporters that he discussed with the Security Council's president issues related to the council's resolutions in light of Iraq's fulfillment of its commitments stipulated in these resolutions.

'Aziz added: The meeting was fruitful. I explained to the council's president Iraq's position, which strongly demands that the council acknowledge the facts showing that Iraq has implemented a great deal of the council's resolutions, and that concerned UN circles have confirmed these facts in their reports.

The deputy prime minister said the tendency of some Security Council members to fail to acknowledge this reality is the wrong approach and that the council should rectify this matter. 'Aziz said the refusal by one member to acknowledge this reality will harm the Security Council's credibility and the legitimacy of its resolutions.

Asked about the U.S. and British positions on Iraq, 'Aziz said: When the dispute began, they told the council and the whole world that they did not have bilateral differences with Iraq, that they behaved according to the bases of international law, and that they prepared Security Council resolutions to address the issue on this basis. However, if they change their position four years later and say that the issue is not within the United Nations' terms of reference, and that it only has to do with their policy, then this is something different, which means the entire issue has changed. They should determine whether they are abiding by the resolutions, which they wrote themselves, or whether they used these resolutions to achieve a political purpose of their own.

### 'Aziz Interviewed on U.S.-British Policy, Kurds

*NC1205165994 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 12 May 94 p 17*

[Second and final installment of an exclusive interview with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz by MILLIYET correspondent Nur Batur in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] [Batur] Do you regard the embargo as a measure to oppose the Iraqi administration?

['Aziz] It is an insult not only to the Iraqi administration but also the Iraqi people. The UN officials wish to distribute foodstuffs and pharmaceutical drugs in Iraq even though they know that foodstuffs are already being distributed in our country. They just wish to impose that condition.

[Batur] How has the Saddam administration been able to remain on its feet despite the pressure to which it has been subjected for so many years?

['Aziz] This shows the healthy relations between the Iraqi people and administration. Otherwise, no administration would have survived that pressure. The CIA has drawn up plans and designs against the administration. However, the government has remained on its feet... [ellipsis as published]

[Batur] Has the CIA tried to have Saddam Husayn ousted?

['Aziz] That has been disclosed by the U.S. officials themselves. It is not an Iraqi claim. They supported the opposition groups in Iraq with $30-$40 million. However, they got nothing from it.

[Batur] Do you think a democratic process could be a way out for Iraq?

['Aziz] We have our own standards of democratization. We cannot adopt liberal standards similar to those in the United States and Western Europe. Iraq existed for thousands of years before the United States appeared in the international arena. It decides for itself what it wishes to do. It has decided to keep its present administration.

[Batur] Will Iraq not disintegrate if the present state of affairs is allowed to continue?

['Aziz] No, it will not. It was said in 1990, 1991, and 1992 that the disintegration of Iraq was only a matter of minutes away. Predictions were made that our country would break up within six months and the administration would be ousted. However, it has not disintegrated, nor will it. We have remained on our feet for 6,000 years.

[Batur] Is it true that an effort is being made to establish a Kurdish State in northern Iraq? The framework of that state will be established in due time...

['Aziz] No, I do not think so. There is no potential for the establishment of a Kurdish state. The present state of affairs is an artificial situation created by the United States. We reached an agreement with the Kurdish leaders in 1991. They were ready to sign it.

[Batur] Was it only Democratic Party Leader of Kurdistan Mas'ud Barzani who was ready? Was Patriotic Union of Kurdistan Leader Jalal Talabani also prepared to sign it?

['Aziz] Barzani was prepared to do so. However, Talabani changes his mind every two hours. Barzani said that he needed a few weeks to secure the support of the people. He was immediately summoned to Washington and London. The U.S. and British Administrations instructed him not to sign that agreement. Actually, the agreement was a democratic accord. It would have served both sides' interests. However, Washington and London obstructed it.

[Batur] Was it the objective of establishing a Kurdish State that caused the failure of that agreement?

['Aziz] No, it was not. However, they were convinced that the agreement would strengthen the Saddam Administration. That is why they blocked it. Nevertheless, they did not support the establishment of a Kurdish State. The Kurds were used in the past, and they are still being used. They were used as a trump card to weaken the Iraqi Government in the 1970's. The U.S. officials are again using the Kurdish problem card against the Iraqi administration at the present time.

[Batur] The Kurds continue to fear Baghdad...

['Aziz] Why are they afraid?

[Batur] Well, they were attacked in the past.

['Aziz] Why should they be attacked—that is, unless they attack the Iraqi administration first? Several factions in the political parties headed by Talabani and Barzani cooperated with Iran and were attacked for that reason. They opposed Iraq when the United States and its Western allies were at war with our country. They are receiving material aid from Washington and London to use against their own people right now. However, the majority of the Kurdish people do not support the Kurdish leaders' policies.

### Defense Minister Allegedly Executes 5 Citizens

*NC1205160794 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] The criminal 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, tyrant Saddam's defense minister, has executed five citizens from the region of (al- Sahafi). He shot them in front of a group of leaders of the Sixth Armed Company. Eyewitnesses have affirmed that he decorated a number of the officers of that company for bravery for following his orders to the letter.

### Conflict Between PUK, DPK, INC Positions Viewed

*NC1305073194 Paris AFP in English 2254 GMT 12 May 94*

[Report by Cristina Karrer]

[Text] Salah al-Din, Northern Iraq, May 13 (AFP)—More than 100 people have been killed in the past two weeks in clashes between the two main Kurdish groups which have split northern Iraq, leaders from both sides said.

The fighting between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK of Jalal Talabani) and the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK of Mas'ud Barzani) ended early this week, they said.

The DPK has taken the control of the northwestern of Kurdistan around the town of Dahuk, while the PUK had seized the southeast, around al-Sulaymaniyah, an AFP correspondent said.

The two groups share with the Iraqi National Congress (INC) the province of Irbil in the middle of the Kurdish-controlled area of northern Iraq.

The INC, which says it represents all the Kurdish and Arab factions opposed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, brokered a ceasefire agreement on Sunday. It is based in Salah al-Din near Irbil.

The fighting erupted after a private quarrel, the PUK said.

The only clause of the ceasefire so far implemented provides for INC militiamen to control checkpoints in the Irbil province, along with equal numbers of PUK and DPK fighters.

INC official Kan'an Makkiyah told AFP Muslim Shiite fighters from southern Iraq were chosen to be deployed on the checkpoints.

The two remaining clauses of the May 8 agreement, that have not been yet implemented, provide for prisoner exchanges and the handing back of captured offices.

Makkiyah said the PDK [as received] has given the INC, which is to supervise the prisoners exchange, a list of 93 people were being held by the PUK.

A DPK official denied his group attacked the PUK in Dahuk. "We only surrounded their offices to force them to surrender peacefully," he told AFP.

PUK spokesman Muhammad Tawfiq said his faction "has taken over" the DPK offices in al-Sulaymaniyah only after its own offices in Dahuk were attacked.

Most of the casualties followed the PUK assault on Qal'at Dizah and Raniyah, near the Iranian border, on May 2, sources from both parties said. Twelve were killed in al-Sulaymaniyah and 12 in Salah al-Din.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA reported on Monday that 2,800 were killed in the fighting.

### Resistance Operations' Successes Cited

*NC1205172194 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] The operations command of the Martyr al-Sadr group has issued a statement announcing its forces had attacked the headquarters of the Ba'thist 18th Brigade and the headquarters of the 215 Artillery Battalion based in the region east of Qal'at Salih and that it captured 90 soldiers. The statement also said that the attacking forces managed to release 55 prisoners who were being held at the headquarters.

Another statement issued by the same command the day before yesterday noted that last week the Iraqi mujahidin attacked the headquarters of the 18th and 95th Brigades east of Qal'at Salih and started fires in these two headquarters. The statement said that the attacking forces killed at least 50 Ba'thist soldiers. Among them were the commander of the artillery battalion, named 'Aziz, and the intelligence officer, 'Ali Salman Habib. The statement added that our Mujahidin succeeded in setting fire to one of the oil wells in al-'Amarah.

## Harvester, Tractor Shipment Arrives 11 May

*JN1205164194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals, has announced the arrival of a ship on 11 May, carrying 236 harvesters and a number of tractors.

In a statement to INA, he said these harvesters and tractors will be immediately distributed by a specialized committee to farmers in all the country's governorates. They will be used in the current agricultural and harvest campaign.

Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan said the Ministry of Industry and Minerals and the industrial sectors have always been the first to support the agricultural sector, with equipment, requirements, fertilizers, and pesticides, with the objective of developing agriculture, increasing production in our country, and improving its quality.

He said all this is pursuant to the instructions of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, and his excellency's continuous care for developing the agricultural sector and for increasing its capacity and capabilities in order to secure abundant food for our lofty Iraqi people and to break the blockade imposed by the unjust ones on our struggler country. May God grant us success to serve our people under the leadership of the architect of Iraq's glory, leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him.

A shipment of harvesters and tractors arrived earlier this year, and was distributed to farmers. Other shipments of harvesters and tractors will arrive later.

### IDF Completes Evacuation of Rafah Installations

*TA1205142894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has evacuated all its installations in the city of Rafah in the Gaza Strip, but the transfer of powers in the place has still not taken place. This is reported by our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Commander Yitzhaq Aharonovich, chief of the Border Police, visited the Gaza Strip today to supervise the evacuation of his forces from the area. Aharonovich said the Border Police is currently preparing to undertake the task of ensuring the safe passage of Israelis in the autonomy areas. It is also preparing for the joint patrols with the Palestinians, slated to start in the next few days.

### Civil Administration To Pay Gaza Electricity Debt

*TA1105134694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 11 May 94*

[Text] It was decided at a discussion in the prime minister's bureau that the Civil Administration will pay the Gaza Strip's debt of approximately 37 million shekels to the Electricity Corporation. Israel will propose that, in the future, the Palestinians make monthly payments of approximately 6-8 million shekels for their electricity consumption, and if they should be unable to pay, the sums will be deducted from other budgets earmarked for the autonomy.

In the wake of this decision, the Electricity Corporation has announced that it will not disconnect the power supply to the Gaza Strip as planned. This was reported by our correspondents Shlomo Raz and Shulamit Schmerling. Under the Israel-PLO agreement, the Gaza Strip is to receive electricity from Israel on an economic-commercial basis whose details will be finalized in negotiations.

### Article Examines 'Shaykh Yasin Problem'

*TA1205190594 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 6 May 94 p 5*

[Article by Roni Shaqed: "Ready To Die in Jail"]

[Text] Last week, on the eve of signing the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres attempted to deal with a problem whose solution could grease the wheels of the Palestinian autonomy: the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] spiritual leader, from prison. In statements he made on national radio and television, and which reached the shaykh, Peres promised that Israel would be willing to free Yasin if he issues a call to stop terrorism.

At the same time, Peres summoned Knesset Member Talib al-Sani' of the Democratic List for Peace and Equality and asked him to contact Yasin. The meeting between the two is expected to take place on 8 May, but Yasin's attorney, 'Abd-al-Malik Dahamshah, smiles: "He does not have a chance. No person in the world could talk the shaykh into accepting a conditional release."

After five years in prison, the paralyzed and sick shaykh is himself a ticking time bomb. Israel would love to rid itself of this bomb—but honorably and for the right price. Peres shares the fear of many in the defense establishment that if Yasin dies in prison, it might reignite the territories.

Yasin's continued imprisonment is a problem for PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as well. 'Arafat seeks a quiet era to bolster his control over Gaza and Jericho. By freeing Yasin, 'Arafat will attain two goals: softening the Hamas opposition and proving to his people that he is the leader of all Palestinians, including his sworn rivals.

Yasin, however, despite being paralyzed in the arms and legs and suffering from an acute lung disease, continues to thwart the plans of his domestic and external enemies. The signing of the agreement last week was no holiday for him. He will not play into their hands, not even for his freedom. From behind the walls, he rejects any offer of a "conditional release:" "I will sit in jail until the end of my days. I will neither surrender to dictates nor be released under constraints," he stated again last week.

The Shaykh Yasin problem is a constant headache for the two partners to the Cairo agreement. Some time ago, he rejected another Peres condition for his release: to meet with 'Arafat and mend their relations. Yasin said: "Obviously, I will meet with 'Arafat. I do not need mediators for this. But I cannot accept such a meeting as a condition!"

Shaykh Yasin is incarcerated in the Ashmoret prison in a room specially planned and built to accommodate his unique situation. Because of his physical handicap, two prisoners have been assigned to attend to all his needs around the clock ever since his detention in May 1989. Up to several months ago, Hamas prisoners were those who performed this task with great dedication, stemming from their respect for their leader. According to Yasin's lawyer, Dahamshah, the makeup of the prison's inmates has recently changed, which is also reflected in the treatment accorded to Yasin: "Now he is being attended by members of the Popular Front, Fatah, and various other organizations, who are unwilling to serve him. They are sick and tired. After all, the man is completely paralyzed. He must be lifted, undressed, washed, and accompanied to the toilet."

Yasin's incarceration is not contributing toward moderating Hamas' attitude toward the autonomy. Yasin's remarks indicate that his opinion of Palestinian self-rule differs from that of many of his followers. According to Yasin, there is no problem in Hamas' participating in the autonomy institutions, including the Palestinian advisory council. He is unwilling, however, to participate in its formation and consolidation: "I am not part of this; I

am part of the Palestinian people. The PLO is responsible for this process. I do not consider this a proper process leading to peace and tranquillity in our region."

Will Hamas people use firearms against their Fatah brethren?

Shaykh Yasin unequivocally states that this will not happen. Islam absolutely forbids such a thing. Attorney Dahamshah: "The shaykh never supported such behavior, did not accept it, and was unwilling to follow such a path. He maintains that all problems can be solved through peaceful negotiations."

Dahamshah adds: "I am familiar with his position regarding terrorism. The shaykh never urged his followers to murder Jewish civilians—neither before his incarceration nor afterward. You should ask yourself: Why have the Muslim organizations acted against soldiers and not civilians? This behavior is religiously motivated, and the shaykh has influence in this respect. Therefore, it makes no sense to demand that Yasin call on his supporters to cease their acts of terrorism, seeing that he never called for the murder of people just because they are Jews!"

The recent closure has not made things easier on the shaykh. Gaza residents are not allowed to leave the Strip or to visit their imprisoned relatives. Since only those over the age of 60 are allowed to leave the Strip, only the shaykh's elder brother can visit him.

The prison authorities award Yasin very special treatment. During early April, for example, after he returned his breakfast and announced that he was launching a hunger strike to protest the fact that a chair and table were removed from his room, all the furniture was immediately returned.

What interest, if any, does Israel have in Yasin's continued incarceration? This question was recently raised in the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs. In addition to punishing a leader responsible for serious terror attacks, there is also the consideration of keeping some bargaining chips in a period of negotiations and in the framework of pressuring Hamas to stop terrorism.

Shaykh Yasin's associates claim that it is illogical to keep him in jail under the pretext that he is responsible for murderous attacks: "Terrorism increased only after the shaykh was jailed. As long as he pulled the strings from the outside, Hamas did not resort to the use of firearms. They settled for political protest, disturbances, and strikes."

What about the murder of soldiers Avi Sasportas and Ilan Sa'adon?

Shaykh Yasin continues to claim that the murderers were members of the al-Majd and al-Mujahidun organizations rather than Hamas. According to Yasin, this is a historical mistake. He says that even the charge sheet filed against him states that he became aware of the murders only after the event, "and even the Shin Bet knows I had nothing to do with it."

What the shaykh "forgets" to mention, however, is the fact that he was the man who established these two secret organizations, which were the precursors of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, the Hamas military arm.

In his reply to the accusations included in the charge sheet, Yasin claimed he accepts the principle of peace: "I feel religiously obligated to make peace between my people and other peoples, because this is God's command." He said that in both nations, there are many who refuse to accept this peace. At the same time, he emphasizes that he is willing to accept a "peaceful solution" which safeguards the legitimate rights of his people.

In statements meant for outside ears, Yasin is willing to say that "the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people" are negotiable: "If you do not want a Muslim state which will safeguard everybody's rights (according to Muslim concepts), then okay, we will not have such a state. Let us therefore establish a state according to the modern concept: a democratic state which will elect its institutions under conditions of equality and democracy."

Today, Shaykh Yasin is considered to be Hamas' spiritual leader. In practice, he is more of a symbol than a leader who issues operational orders to his men in the field. The movement continues to pursue his ideological path. The Hamas leadership takes his opinion into consideration, but sometimes Hamas spokesmen correct his remarks and "explain" what he meant when he said this or that. Time has taken its course, and Hamas has a new leadership. Shaykh Yasin is far away and cut off from events.

So far, Hamas people in Gaza are operating in the spirit of Yasin's approach. There is a rapprochement with Fatah, and there are some indications that Hamas is slowly being integrated into the autonomy institutions. At the same time, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam's murderers are still active. Gaza fugitives have already drifted to the West Bank. Senior security officials assess that Hamas terrorism will increase in those West Bank areas that will not be under 'Arafat's control.

Attorney Dahamshah promises, of course, that Yasin's release and return home "will greatly contribute toward calming the situation and facilitate the positive process between the two nations."

## Labor Holds 'Charged' Session on Histadrut Defeat

*TA1205160694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 12 May 94*

[Excerpt] The Labor Knesset caucus and the party bureau leadership have decided that an in-depth review will be necessary to investigate the party's defeat in the Histadrut elections, but that no one will be forced to pay a personal price. Prime Minister Rabin said a team had

been set up to conduct coalition negotiations with Hayim Ramon and that the return to the party of those who broke away is being considered. On this, David Ze'ev:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] The meeting of the Labor caucus and bureau lasted four hours. It was highly charged with emotion. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was angered by the emotional statements of some members, who lashed out at the various people centrally involved in this crisis. Rabin said personality bashing is not what the party needs now.

The premier told reporters after the meeting of the following conclusions: Labor will work to set up a Histadrut coalition with Hayim Ramon; it will not sit in the opposition and will not try to set up a coalition with the Likud. No beheadings, in Rabin's words; Labor Party Secretary General Nisim Zvili will not be forced to resign, nor will Hayim Haberfeld be forced to leave his post as the head of the Labor faction in the Histadrut. A committee to be chaired by Rabin, joined by Zvili, Haberfeld, and NA'AMAT women's organization head 'Ofra Friedman, will conduct the coalition negotiations with Ramon's party.

The prime minister said a proposal is to be considered whether to grant amnesty or to call upon those who broke away for the Histadrut elections, as well as in the local elections last November, to return to the party. Rabin said additional, more comprehensive deliberations—perhaps the establishment of a commission—will be necessary to examine just exactly what went wrong.

Asked whether in fact he is not so disappointed that Hayim Ramon won, Rabin replied: Look, I voted for Labor, I worked for the Labor list, but in light of the circumstances, it would have been worse if the Likud had won. [passage omitted] [end recording]

### Commentary: 'Sky Is the Limit' for Ramon

*TA1105121094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 May 94 p A1*

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "The Tea Breaks Remain, The Power Has Gone"]

[Text] The Histadrut's Executive Committee might continue to take its incessant tea breaks for some time to come, but Labor lost power yesterday. It suffered a crushing, painful, and humiliating defeat when for the first time in 73 years it lost its hegemony over the Histadrut Labor Federation.

It could be called "an earthquake," or "an upheaval," but Knesset Member Avraham Burg was closer to the mark when he said: "We have been screwed." The blow is much more painful because Labor brought the downfall upon itself. Just as in 1977 Labor under Rabin did not feel the public had grown sick and tired of it, and that its loss of power was written on the wall, in 1994 Labor under Rabin did not read the map properly and lost power a second time.

Labor old-timers can shed tears over not paying attention to Hayim Ramon's prophesy about the mass suicide of the whales. The whales are now in their death throes on the beaches, and depend on the goodwill of Ramon, Sarid, and Der'i to admit them into the Histadrut coalition. [Histadrut forefather] Berl Katznelson is now turning in his grave.

Ramon's impressive victory, especially since he had only a short time to organize, is proof of the desire by voters—even among the Haberfeld supporters, who failed to turn up at the polls—to punish Labor in general, and Labor in the Histadrut in particular. The main blow was suffered by the party bureaucracy and personally by Rabin and Peres, who permitted it to happen.

Labor last night talked about "soul searching," and "the immediate return of the deportees," but from today on, it is a new ball game. Overnight, Ramon jumped from a position of asking for favors to one of dictating terms. And in his new status, and with lots of allies in his former party, Ramon is precipitating Labor into a period of shocks which could end not only with the "clearing away" of the entire generation following Rabin and Peres, but (perhaps) also end the careers of Rabin and Peres themselves. The two can forget about running for top office in 1996.

Ramon, a product of the system of direct elections and telegenic politics, will run against Ehud Baraq and then perhaps against Bibi Netanyahu. Now, for the first time there is a chance that the young will take over the reins of power before old age creeps up on them. Our politics jumped two grades yesterday.

Ramon's impressive victory provides him with several alternatives. The most striking is that he now has the infrastructure to set up a new center party with Meretz and part of Labor, which one day will be able to set up a young and fresh government with a wider-ranging parliamentary base than Rabin and Peres managed to achieve in the 20 years they ruled the party.

There is only one small obstacle in the path opened up to Ramon yesterday: He has to be secretary general of the Histadrut, fulfill all his promises, deal with a 35 billion shekel deficit in the pension funds, cut, sell, defend, close down, and what not. If he is made of the right stuff and if he shows us he can perform as well as he talks, the sky is the limit.

### Soldier, Truck Driver Shot, Wounded in Strip

*TA1205111494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] A soldier in an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] outpost in Jabalyah in the Gaza Strip was wounded in the knee by terrorists' gunfire. The soldier was taken to

Soroka Hospital in Beersheba. Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that several shots were fired at the outpost. The soldiers returned fire, and then another salvo was fired at them. A man suffering gunshot wounds was later found in al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza, and the possibility that he may have been one of the terrorists is currently being examined.

A truck driver was wounded by gunfire near the settlement of Morag in the Qatif Bloc. He was moderately wounded and was evacuated to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba.

### 'Terrorists' Caught

*TA1205132094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 12 May 94*

[Excerpt] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in the Gaza Strip apprehended the terrorists who wounded an Israeli truck driver near the settlement of Morag today. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that the terrorists overtook the truck and opened fire. The driver, who was wounded in the chest and leg, was transferred to Soroka Hospital. Following the incident, IDF forces sealed off the area, launched a manhunt, and caught the terrorists. [passage omitted]

### Beilin Leaves for UK, To Discuss EU Talks

*TA1205115294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 May 94 p A11*

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Text] During recent negotiations on the new agreement between Israel and the European Union [EU], Israel has been encountering difficulties in its attempts to be accepted as an associate member to EU research and development plans.

According to reports from various European capitals which arrived in Jerusalem recently, the talks are being held up because Britain has been impeding the talks on approving Israel's acceptance to the research and development plans.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin is leaving this morning on a four-day visit to Britain, where he will hold discussions on promoting the Israel-EU relations and bilateral relations with Britain.

### Protest of 'Fascists' in Italian Government Urged

*TA1205113994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (24 SHA'OT supplement) in Hebrew 12 May 94 p 8*

[Commentary by Sever Plotzker: "Do Not Let Fascism Have Its Way"]

[Excerpts] On 10 May, TV mogul Silvio Berlusconi, the newly elected Italian prime minister, presented the composition of his government: Berlusconi's popular movement—which organized for the election at the record time of 10 weeks and swept most of the Italian voter's support—is an alliance of three parties: Berlusconi's party, Forza Italia, a populist party seeking to turn Italy into a loose north-south federation; the Northern League; and the National Alliance, which contains the hardcore Italian neo- fascists. This is the first time fascists are members of a European government since 1944. [passage omitted]

Before it is too late—before the representation of neo-fascists expands, before the new fascists are again accepted among the civilized European nations—my government, the Government of Israel, the government of the state of the Jews, must take a demonstrative act against what is happening in Italy this spring of 1994.

We cannot just let this happen. I urge and expect Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to express the Israeli Government's most determined protest over the fact that neo-fascists were made part of an Italian government. I expect Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to recall Israel's ambassador in Rome for prolonged consultations. I strongly suggest that the membership of Italian observers in the Temporary International Presence in Hebron be suspended for as long as they are subject to a government the deputy prime minister of which is a neo-fascist. And, if all the above diplomatic hints do not help, I call on my government to downgrade the Israeli representation in Italy from the ambassadorial to the consular level, or even less.

I am aware of the fact that some Italians might view this as an interference with their domestic matters. Not true! Legitimizing fascism or neo-post-fascism is no domestic matter of any country. It is a virus that could spread like AIDS if it is not abolished at once. Even if the Italians are willing to stomach their fascists, we, the Jewish government, will scream and how.

It is not only that we are entitled to do so; it is our national duty. This is what the State of Israel is there for. We cannot afford to keep silent. We know the dreadful price of silence. There is no such thing as humanitarian fascism.

### King Confers With Yemeni Foreign Minister

*JN1205164494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] At the Royal Hashemite Court today, His Majesty King Husayn received Yemen's Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah, who communicated a verbal message from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The message thanks his majesty for his attitude toward sisterly Yemen, and outlines the latest developments there.

His Majesty King Husayn told Basindwah that Jordan wants to see the Yemeni people stay united, within a single entity. Jordan is anxious for the gains achieved by the Yemeni people to be preserved. His majesty told the envoy the flow of Yemeni blood should be stemmed and outside intervention in the country's domestic affairs kept at bay. Jordan, his majesty added, is prepared to extend humanitarian aid to Yemen whenever the need arises.

The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir; his majesty's adviser Khalid al-Karaki; Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; and the Yemeni ambassador in Amman.

The Yemeni minister left Amman this afternoon and was seen off at the airport by Talal al-Hasan.

### King Addresses Visiting Israeli Arab Delegation

*JN1205203094 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 May 94*

[Speech by King Husayn to a delegation of visiting Israeli Arabs offering condolences on the death of the queen mother, at the Royal Court in Amman on 12 May—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear brothers; you are our kinsfolk. You have our appreciation for holding fast to your dear and precious land.

You have come to commiserate with us on the death of my mother, may her soul rest in peace. The Hashemite family has always had the privilege of being close to Palestine, its people, its cause, and their rights. The next generations will, God willing, follow the same path. If I say that, for us, you are family and brothers, I am stating a fact. I, and all of us here, thank you and appreciate your gesture. When you are in Amman, you are at home. I thank you for the kind words I heard from you. Please convey to all Arab brothers our love and appreciation. I hope we will be able to see you here among us more often. I beseech God that we are at the threshold of a new era under which the Palestinian people enjoy their rights on their national soil and in which all parties live in peace, so all concerned can lead secure, dignified, and free lives and build for the benefit of future generations what we have been deprived of. We take pride in our brotherhood. We will always be there for you. You are most welcome here. Give my greetings, love, and appreciation to all the kinsfolk and brothers on whose behalf you are visiting us to cheer us in our grief.

In any case, such is life. What has befallen us is God's will and our fate. Thanks be to God, a lucky human being is one who leaves behind the memory of his good actions. We pray to God that we will have been among those who reached out and were generous toward others, so we may have a clear conscience and serve our kinsfolk and do all that we can to help both present and future generations. Once more, I thank you; May God's peace and blessing be upon you. I wish you a happy stay here among your kinsfolk and brothers.

### Talks With PLO Aim at Implementing Economic Accord

*JN1205112794 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 May 94*

[Text] The meetings of the Jordanian-Palestinian Economic Committee will end tomorrow. The second day's meetings ended a short while ago. Details are in the following report by our political affairs correspondent Shakir Maharimah:

[Begin recording] [Maharimah] The Jordanian-Palestinian Economic Committee resumed its meetings at the Prime Ministry today until late this evening. After the meeting, Mr. Ahmad Quray', head of the PLO Economic Department and head of the Palestinian side, and Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs, minister of information, and head of the Jordanian side, made statements:

[Quray'] After this long and enjoyable round of talks and exchange of views with our brothers under the chairmanship of my brother His Excellency Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, we have prepared mechanisms with full understanding on both sides to implement the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement in the economic field. We discussed basic and important issues that dealt with banking and monetary issues, trade and customs.

We also set up subcommittees and they will commence their work immediately as of Saturday [14 May] to follow up the implementation of the working program. God willing, when the transitional stage goes into implementation, coordination will take place on the ground. I believe that since 1967, this is the first chance for us, as Palestinians, to exercise part of our powers usurped by the Israeli occupation authorities.

The first and basic reference that we resort to is this fraternal, brotherly, and friendly country with which we are linked with distinguished ties and which cannot but include all the visions and aspirations of our two peoples.

God willing, we shall meet again tomorrow and release a joint statement and agree on a working program to implement the accord signed on 7 January 1994.

[Al-'Anani] The negotiations were held in a businesslike atmosphere in which issues were discussed in detail. The discussion of the details of a mechanism took us a long time. It was not enough to agree on the basic principles. It was necessary that we work out practical steps on the ground so that technical experts and specialists in the various sectors could immediately start implementing the agreement.

A high spirit of cooperation permeated these meetings. Since our interests are interrelated, they must be organized in a detailed way so that people and the private sector could take advantage of the chances available on the ground in view of what is going on in the Palestinian territories in terms of changes we will witness on the ground.

In fact, I would like to thank brother Abu-'Ala' [Quray'], and his friends and colleagues who showed a high level of response to and understanding of issues that are of concern to us in Jordan. We found solutions to these issues, which, God willing, will convince the Jordanian and Palestinian people that we are on the road to achieving interests. God willing, we will avoid dangers and seek to achieve joint interests in light of close relations between the two people.

As my brother Abu-'Ala' said, we will meet in order to sign what we call a working plan based on the agreement. As he mentioned, we took a number of priorities into consideration. These included banking, monetary, trade, and transient issues. We also discussed the issue of tourism. We shall hold further meetings to complete the discussion of agriculture, industry, energy, and any other related issues. Moreover, the [Palestinian] brothers asked for cooperation in terms of exchanging expertise and technical cadres, especially since the required Palestinian institutions are being established. They received sufficient response from us. [end recording]

### Economic Talks Resume

*JN1205122594 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Jordanian and Palestinian officials have resumed talks on the joint economic working plan agreed upon during yesterday's sessions between the both sides.

The minister of information Dr. Jawad al-'Anani who is heading Jordan's delegation to the meetings said that the two sides will sign the economic plan agreement tomorrow. He added that the heads of the two sides will later hold a press conference about the results of their meetings.

The joint committee met at the prime minister's office last night. Dr. al-'Anani told reporters after the meeting that the two sides discussed a number of issues dealing with banking, trade, customs, and tourism.

The head of the Palestinian side to the meetings Ahmad Quray' said that subcommittees were set up and they will commence their work on Saturday to follow up the implementation of the agreement. He added that Jordan will be the first in basic reference due to the distinguished relations between the two brotherly countries.

### U.S. Stand on Inspections Said 'Positive' Step

*JN1205155694 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 May 94 pp 1, 25*

[Editorial: "A Positive Change"]

[Text] The U.S. response to Jordan's request to suspend the inspection at sea of ships bound for the Port of al-'Aqabah is a victory from the Jordanian point of view. These inspection operations are unjustified. They are an unacceptable encroachment on the rights of Jordanian navigation and trade.

Although the U.S. decision does not fully respond to the primary request to suspend the inspection operations, this decision in itself is a very important step to remove the political cover given to the multinational interception of ships bound for al-'Aqabah. This task was assigned to an independent, not-for-profit British company. This will not obstruct navigation because inspections will take place in the Port of al-'Aqabah, not at sea. Goods will be inspected after they enter the port, not at sea. This will save companies and ship owners from losses and delay.

Without doubt, this measure is an important retreat. It restores the regional role and importance of and confidence in the Port of al-'Aqabah. Persistent efforts to achieve this objective were realized in the end. There is increasing and renewed international satisfaction with Jordan's commitment to international resolutions. There is also belief in this country's need for compensation for the losses it suffered as a result of the Gulf crisis and the sanctions imposed on it, and that it does not need additional unjustified losses.

The U.S. response to the Jordanian request is a positive change and a very important step in the right direction on the road to ending all aspects of inspection. Jordan, along with most of the international community, hopes the U.S. stand will take the form of a more general and comprehensive stand to end the various effects and repercussions of the Gulf crisis. This is long overdue, now that the objectives and causes of the crisis have ended. Jordan hopes this will be a chance to offer compensation to the countries and peoples of the region that have suffered serious losses and damages as a result of the negative repercussions of the crisis, in order to open a new chapter of security and stability.

### Efforts Continue To Resolve Cabinet 'Crisis'

*NC1205171994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 May 94*

[Excerpts] The good offices by a number of Cabinet members and deputies, including Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr, to resolve the government crisis were resumed today. Al-Murr today visited President al-Hirawi, Chamber Speaker Birri, and Prime Minister al-Hariri to establish channels for positive dialogue to allow the country to return to normal and proceed with the development and reconstruction march. [passage omitted]

Speaking after his meeting with Speaker Birri, al-Murr said that what is happening is not a crisis as much as a political problem to which we seek a solution. He added: Speaker Birri plays a major role in finding this solution or helping to find one. Noting that certain proposals exist, al-Murr added: We hope that these proposals will help us emerge from the crisis.

Following his meeting with Birri, al-Murr returned to Prime Minister al-Hariri's residence, where he met with him in the presence of Minister Walid Junblatt. Earlier, al-Murr visited Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul. Al-Murr denied any knowledge that a Syrian envoy is expected to arrive in Lebanon today or that the president, Chamber speaker, and prime minister would leave for Syria. He noted that the crisis is on the way to being resolved.

### Economic Situation, Political Problems Viewed

*NC1305083594 Paris AFP in English 2225 GMT 12 May 94*

[Report by Hala Boncompagni]

[Text] Beirut, May 13 (AFP)—Economic growth slowed during the first quarter of 1994 amid a drop in exports as private and public investments stagnated in productivity sectors, a private bank report said.

Agriculture and industrial exports dropped by 33.2 percent and the number of construction permits issued by the authorities fell by 15 percent compared with the average quarterly figures of 1993, Bank Audi said in the report.

Activity at Beirut airport fell 20 percent and there was a 19.8 percent drop in the number of passengers, it added.

The lack of credit offers and high interest rates on the Lebanese pound were seen as the main reasons for fewer real investments, the report said.

Central Bank governor Riyad Salamah meanwhile blamed the slow-down on security fears and a wave of political turbulence that has gripped Lebanon since a church bombing in February killed 10 worshippers and wounded 54 others.

The government has since arrested dozens of former Christian militiamen, disbanded the Lebanese Forces Christian party and placed its chief Samir Ja'ja' behind bars as part of an investigation into a 1990 political murder.

It has also banned private news and television broadcasts until new legislation to regulate the media is drafted and approved by parliament, and reactivated the death penalty in measures to crackdown on security.

The Bank Audi report was released before billionaire Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri decided on Sunday to freeze his political functions in protest over opposition for a government reshuffle.

Al-Hariri's decision has plunged Lebanon into one of its worst post-war political crises at a time when it is seeking investments to rebuild the infrastructure wrecked by the 1975-1990 civil war.

Lebanon's Central Bank has sold 115 million dollars from its reserves since Monday to bolster the Lebanese pound, which came under pressure following al-Hariri's decision.

Economic experts meanwhile predicted that real investments will be kept on hold until the outcome of Arab-Israeli peace talks.

"Investors are waiting to see the outline of Lebanon's economic role after Arab-Israeli peace is achieved," one expert said, noting that Beirut's fate depended on the decisions of Israel and Syria which deploy troops in Lebanon.

### Hizballah Leader on Media, Peace, Resistance

*NC1205134194 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 6 May 94 pp 2-4*

[Interview with Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah by unidentified WAKALAT AL-ANBA' AL-DUWALIYAH correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] There is a political aspect to the Lebanese Forces' open security file and their political line. Do you have any comment?

[Nasrallah] We adopted many clear stances immediately after the government's measures, with official statements and on other occasions. We expressed more than a little satisfaction with the security measures taken against the Lebanese Forces. I remember it was said at the time that the action to purge Lebanon of the Israeli groups should have been taken long ago. This is so because the presence of any Israeli political group in Lebanon is a threat to Lebanon, its unity, security, and stability, and to the coexistence of its various sects and factions.

We know that the Israeli plan in Lebanon and the region seeks sedition and division as a prelude to Israel's control of all the region's resources. Our view on this is clear. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What is the political picture in view of the negotiations? What is wanted is the head of the Resistance as a primary condition for ending Israel's occupation of Lebanon.

[Nasrallah] We discussed negotiations often. We said we do not believe these negotiations will produce results, at least not in the foreseeable future. All the optimism that prevailed after the Geneva summit between President al-Asad and Clinton diminished as the days passed. We even noticed in the past weeks that the daily political commentaries carried by Syrian newspapers and Damascus radio and television, as well as statements by Syrian officials, were very clear in accusing the U.S. Administration of abandoning many of its obligations undertaken at the Geneva summit.

Obviously the United States cannot be an impartial mediator in the settlement process. Obviously the Israeli enemy is not willing to give even the minimum in convincing concessions to the Syrian side.

In the negotiating process, there is a very big difference between a man like Yasir 'Arafat and one like President al-Asad. 'Arafat is ready to make concessions unconditionally and he does this every day. As for President al-Asad, he is a different person. From the beginning he defined and adhered to a series of principles despite difficult world and regional pressures and circumstances.

Israel's intransigence over imposing a truce and settlement fully compatible with its conditions and the complete U.S. support for and protection of Israel on every level mean that we should not expect a result or progress in the foreseeable future.

We used to hear statements that a settlement would be effected in late 1993. It did not even happen in the spring of 1994. Every recent U.S. statement has said: "We will work toward making some kind of progress on the various tracks in 1994." This means that the atmosphere is not one of settlement.

[Correspondent] Do you expect anything to come out of Christopher's current visit?

[Nasrallah] He said his visit was routine.

[Correspondent] Israel recently attacked Sidon and areas in the heart of Lebanon, which was regarded as a message to influence the Lebanese Government because its positive stance on the Resistance was not firm.

[Nasrallah] The government's main responsibility is not only to support the Resistance. The Resistance men are often told that the official stance supports the Resistance. There is a debate now on the theme: "Is resistance to occupation the responsibility of the government or the people?"

It is the responsibility of the state and the people to fight the enemy and drive them away from our country. It is not enough for the state to tell the people that they have the right to resist. This is a shortcoming of the state. It is incumbent upon the state to support the resistance—and not just verbally and politically. The state must support the steadfastness of the southerners and implement its pledges them.

The escalation of the Israeli attacks dictates that the Government provide the Resistance with all means to enable it deter and prevent these attacks. We should never fear the Israeli attacks or allow them to forcibly alter our official stand on the Resistance and on steadfastness.

The Government's stand on the massacres in al-Nabatiyah and Sidon demonstrates its impotence and indifference at times. This is a major weak point in the Lebanese Government's performance and politics.

[Correspondent] Some people believe that the Government's support for the southern people should be expressed in a political stand or financial support. Are you hopeful that this will improve?

[Nasrallah] I doubt it. In the past when the south was attacked, the Government used to lodge a complaint with the UN Security Council. But now it is different: the Government no longer lodges any complaints. This means that the Government is not giving serious consideration to this. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] It is said that Hizballah is with the regime but against the law.

[Nasrallah] We may discuss some details, but not the issue of resistance. We support everything that bolsters peace in Lebanon. We are against any show of force. What happened in Ba'labakk on Al-Quds Day was exaggerated by the media and political bodies, and it was exploited by several parties. Nevertheless, it was a hasty action by some brothers, who used to celebrate similar occasions with the same way in the past. But is had no political connotations. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] How do you coordinate between your military-security capability and maintaining domestic peace at a time when Islamists in other countries have failed in this? While maintaining domestic peace and engaging in quarrels with the regime, if political or other developments occur in the region and the Resistance's role ends, would you fail to maintain domestic peace?

[Nasrallah] First I would like to explain one fact. The Islamic movements or the Islamists may converge—or naturally should converge—in their goals. It is also natural for them to have different programs and means to achieve these goals, considering the characteristics of each country and society.

Lebanon is different from Algeria, Egypt, and many other Arab countries. Moreover these countries themselves or the Islamic countries all have different characteristics; each society has its own structure, which the Islamic movement should take into consideration. The special characters, circumstances, and events do not change the goals, but dictate to the wise man to deal with

them and take them into consideration in his own methods and programs. [passage omitted]

We might disagree with the Islamist brothers in Algeria on some details concerning this policemen or that soldier. Personally I do not believe the allegations that Islamists prepare a booby-trapped car here or place an explosive charge there to kill civilians, not in Algeria or in Egypt.

I accuse the regimes of violence. I read a report in an Egyptian opposition newspaper that the baby girl killed in the [attempted] assassination of the prime minister some time ago was not killed by the explosion but by the bullets of the prime minister's guards, but the Islamists were accused of killing the girl.

In any case, whether in Algeria or in Egypt, it is the regime which insists on using violence and repression. This regime has declared war on the Islamists. So far, the Islamists have not been allowed to form legal parties. The regime there [Egypt] even prevents the Islamists from carrying out any political activity and expressing their opinion. It uses repression against them, jails, tortures, and kills them on the streets under the cover of the Emergency Law. [passage omitted]

As for Lebanon, our military power was established in 1982 simply on the basis of resisting the occupation—which still continues—not to show off or make domestic political gains.

The continuing jihad operations over the past years, especially in recent years, confirm that we have only used force in a real, serious confrontation, and not for propaganda, one-upmanship, to show off, or for political gains. The Israeli enemy acknowledges that the 1992 operations were more violent and fierce than those of 1991. They said the same thing at the end of 1993 and, God willing, will say the same at the end of 1994. Since early 1994, the operations escalated significantly, especially recently. Most of the agents killed were not ordinary soldiers but security and military leaders working for agent Lahd's army. As I said, this is a military power which we should not fear. Every one agrees that resistance is a legitimate right and duty and anyone who fails to perform this duty is neglectful at the religious, national, pan- Arab, moral, and humane levels. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What about the party called Hizballah Palestine?

[Nasrallah] This party no longer exists. There was a group of Palestinian mujahidin who called themselves Hizballah Palestine for a certain period. But it ceased to exist after a short period. Currently, there is no Palestinian group bearing this name. But statements are sometimes issued inside Palestine by mujahidin who have no organizational affiliation. They might use the name due to its morale and jihad value. But there is no any organization called Hizballah Palestine.

[Correspondent] What is your comment on the Government's decision to turn down any request by any party or sect to own any information media establishment?

[Nasrallah] Generally speaking, we are awaiting the Government's laws. The Government must honor its promise and present a bill on the audio/visual law. This bill will be submitted to the Chamber of Deputies for discussion. We have a parliamentary bloc that will participate in this discussion. At any rate, the Government can do whatever it wants, but the Chamber of Deputies has the final say. We believe that all political parties must enjoy freedom, particularly the freedom of expression. No sect has its own media. [passage omitted] Preventing the parties from expressing their own views represents an unjustified violation of freedoms. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Many figures want to join the Cabinet in the event of any reshuffle or change. Do you have the same attitude?

[Nasrallah] We are not enthusiastic about participating in the Cabinet, nor do we have any desire to join the establishment. Our participation in the Government is contingent on the political program and the extent of the Government's honesty and sincerity about implementing a persuasive and logical political program that would serve the interests of our Lebanese people.

[Correspondent] As a rule, the Government is formed first and then the policy statement is prepared.

[Nasrallah] Governments in the advanced countries are usually formed as a result of alliances and coalitions. As far as I know, they agree on a political program and then the government is formed. This is followed by the policy statement, which normally puts forth a selected political program. Therefore, whoever wants to participate just for the sake of participation will accept anything..

[Correspondent] Does this mean that you will not take part in the event of a cabinet reshuffle?

[Nasrallah] I said that this question cannot be answered either yes or no. It depends on the program to be implemented by the Government. It also depends on the Government's seriousness and honesty in implementing this kind of program.

[Correspondent] Has any main party in Lebanon been raided and have weapons been confiscated?

[Nasrallah] There are no weapons in the [Southern] Suburb. Hizballah fighters have weapons only to fight the Israeli enemy. It is logical to distinguish between the Resistance's weapons and those used to serve the enemy in some way or another.

### Warrant Issued for Former President's Murderer

*NC1205122794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Judge Sa'id Mirza, who is investigating the assassination of former President Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil, has issued a warrant for the arrest of Habib al-Shartuni on murder charges following his escape from prison.

Philip Khayrallah, chairman of the Judicial Council, has set 3 June as the date for the start of the trial of 'Abd-al-Hakim Hulayhil, Bilal Kafil, Hasan Mallat, Husayn Sahyun, and Murad Qaddur, who are charged with carrying out terrorist actions on the Dayr al-Balamand road with a view to fanning civil war, sectarian fighting, and sabotage on 22 June 1993.

### Political Parties Begin Reviving Publications

*NC1205160894 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 8 May 94 p 7*

[Report by Wajdi al-'Aridi]

[Text] The country's militias, having been forced to lay down their weapons, remained for some time in possession of their own media publications, through which they aired their news and expressed their positions.

With the ban on newscasts and political programs of private televisions and radios, the country's parties and political organizations are scrambling to revive their old newspapers. The move is gathering momentum, with every party busily making preparations and looking into the financial side of its press endeavor.

According to a prominent source of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], the PSP will soon be publishing a weekly magazine, AL-ANBA'. Preparations have been underway since PSP leader Walid Junblatt ordered the closure of the party's radio, the Voice of the Mountain. AL-ANBA', to be managed by 'Izzat Safi, will have political and miscellaneous news reports, mainly expressing the PSP line.

A similar development is taking place in the Phalangist Party. Its political bureau, having passed a decision to resume publication of AL-'AMAL newspaper in the near future, is taking steps in that direction. Prior to the newscast ban, the Phalangist Party had begun tentative transmission of the Voice of Lebanon Television, but plans to launch the service have since gone by the boards. The party's Voice of Lebanon radio is still on the air, abiding by the newscast ban.

The Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] is taking action to revive its newspaper AL-BINA', whose publication was discontinued two years ago.

The Lebanese Communist Party [LCP] has no plans to augment its media facilities. In addition to the Voice of the People radio, the LCP has a new television station, although it sold a large portion of its shares to businessman Tahsin al-Khayyat. It is still publishing its magazine AL-NIDA', which used to be a weekly but is now daily. Financial considerations have forced the LCP to sell part of its media empire.

The Amal Movement has no plans to expand its media. It currently has a weekly newspaper, AMAL.

Hizballah already boasts an impressive assortment of media facilities, including al-Manar Television, al-Nur Radio, and the weekly newspaper AL-'AHD.

The media of the disbanded Lebanese Forces media are up for grabs. One eager bidder for the "loot" is the Phalangist Party. The latter is suing the Lebanese Forces for control of the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation, a television station which the Phalangist Party claims it owns. The weekly magazine AL-MASIRAH, originally published by the Lebanese Forces, still appears but prudently avoids any political row with the Government.

Sources at the National Liberal Party rule out a revival of the party magazine AL-AHRAR for financial reasons. The party has no other media facility.

## Yemeni Envoy Arrives With Letter From al-Bid

### States Aim of Visit

*JN1205160194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Salih Abu-Bakr Bin Husaynun, Yemeni oil minister and special envoy of Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, arrived in Damascus today accompanied by a delegation. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Dr. Nadir Nabulsi, minister of Oil and mineral resources, senior officials from the Foreign Ministry and the Oil and Mineral Resources Ministry, and the Yemeni ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff.

In a statement to SANA, Bin-Husaynun said the aim of the visit is to hand a letter to President Hafiz al-Asad from his brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Yemeni vice president and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, dealing with Yemeni developments especially after the outbreak of war in Yemen. Bin-Husaynun praised Syria's stands and its concern for Yemen. He said: We are aware that Syria is pained by the ongoing fighting between Yemeni brothers. It stands by Yemen in this affliction. This is not a novelty, because Syria has always shared the pain and always stood by any Arab state facing threats.

### Meets With al-Asad

*JN1205183794 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1805 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] At 1830 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, Yemeni minister of oil and mineral wealth.

The meeting was attended by Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister; Dr. Nadir Nabulsi, minister of oil and and mineral resources; and 'Abduh Shatfah, the Yemeni ambassador in Damascus.

Bin-Husaynun conveyed to his excellency the president a message from Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

Discussions dealt with the situation in Yemen. His excellency the president stressed Syria's extreme interest in the ongoing events in the Yemeni arena. He reiterated the call for the Yemeni brothers to resolve their differences through dialogue, away from fighting, with a spirit of brotherhood, and with a view to safeguarding the homeland's unity and the safety of its children.

### Departs for Amman

*JN1305120694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 May 94*

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad received Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah at al-Rawdah Palace at 1230 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the audience. Basindwah arrived in Damascus yesterday evening. [passage omitted]

Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, Yemeni minister of oil and mineral wealth, has left Damascus for Amman at the conclusion of a two-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at the airport by Dr. Nadir Nabulsi, minister of oil and mineral resources.

## Need for Complete Israeli Withdrawal Reaffirmed

*PM1205093694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 May 94 p 6*

["News Analysis" article by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Syrian Queries About Depth and Scale of Withdrawal From Golan"]

[Text] Damascus—Although the Israeli proposals which U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher conveyed to President Hafiz al-Asad did not satisfy Syria, because they do not contain the basic "magic word," namely agreement to withdraw completely from the Syrian Golan Heights, the Israelis' announcement of their willingness to withdraw from a part of the Golan and to dismantle settlements there is in itself an Israeli acknowledgment that the land over which the two sides are negotiating is a Syrian territory, part of which can be subjected to the security arrangements and most of which can be returned to Syria. It also means a change in the Israeli language in general—a change that is not encountering a Syrian rejection, but, rather, reservations about applying the return [al-i'adah] principle to all the land, not just part of it.

High-level Syrian sources told AL-HAYAH that the Israeli proposals conveyed to Damascus "did not respond to the basic principle in the peace process, that is, the complete withdrawal from the Golan." The proposals contained Israel's willingness to withdraw from three Syrian villages—namely Majdal Shams, Buq'ata, and Sa'dah—under a three-phase withdrawal plan over eight years, with "minor changes to the border" between the two sides, in order to "guarantee Israeli security." This is in addition to addressing the question of "joint management" of water in the Golan, which concentrates in the southern part of the Golan, feeding Lake Tiberias, the source of the River Jordan. Water in that area is estimated at 320 cubic meters.

The sources told AL-HAYAH that the Israeli proposals include the proposal for Syria to begin to take confidence-building measures during the first withdrawal phase under the "Majdal Shams First" plan, on the basis of which the depth of the withdrawal and arrangements for the remaining two phases—which include "dismantling settlements in the Golan," especially northern settlements, which already have no settlers in them—would be determined. The sources did not rule out that the Israelis may have asked to open a tourist office in Damascus in the first phase to transport tourists between the two sides. All this—so the Israelis believe—would "test Syrian intentions."

But the Syrian sources stress that the ones whose intentions should be tested are those occupying others' land,

"not the owners of the rights and land. They (the Israelis) are requested to prove their good intentions by complying with the complete withdrawal from the occupied Golan, that is, within the framework of a comprehensive solution." The sources add that Syria's view of a comprehensive solution does not mean that all tracks advance "at the same speed. One track may advance more than another in terms of time, but the solution must be comprehensive in the end."

The sources point out that Christopher did not take to Syria an Israeli "plan or note," but Israeli ideas about "the Israeli view of peace on the Syrian track." And the Syrian side submitted "queries and questions" about these proposals, in addition to "precise ideas about Syria's view of the peaceful solution." The sources say that the Syrian questions focus on two basic points: withdrawal and the timetable, saying that the Israelis must agree to withdraw completely from the Golan in the framework of a comprehensive settlement, provided the withdrawal is completed in "a short period," not eight years as announced in Tel Aviv. It should be conducted in accordance with the "logistic requirements" for this withdrawal, that is in addition to the complete dismantling of the settlements.

The sources point out that the Syrian demand regarding the priority of withdrawal centers on the peace process' essence, namely the "land for peace" principle and implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338 stipulating "withdrawal" from the occupied territory. "Besides, the U.S. initiative did not say part of the land in return for peace." The sources add that when the Israelis utter the "magic word" (full withdrawal), the door would be opened to both sides to discuss "the security arrangements." The sources stress that these arrangements must be equal on both sides of the border, including the establishment of a demilitarized zone and another thinly armed [mukhaffafat al-taslih] zone, in addition to electronic early warning systems, not just on the Syrian side of the border as the Israelis are trying to dictate.

The sources point out that the Israeli side is trying to "drown the negotiations in a discussion of detailed questions like normalization, opening of the border, trade relations, and security arrangements, without even beginning to agree to full withdrawal"—which is unacceptable to Syria. This is in the knowledge that Syria has emphasized its willingness to address these matters, "but after complete withdrawal."

As for the "Majdal Shams First" plan, the sources say that Syria "is not (Palestinian President Yasir) 'Arafat, and Majdal Shams is not Gaza and Jericho." Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' described this plan as "absurd," as Syria rejects any phased solution.

## Commentary Views Peace Process, Christopher's Tour

*JN1205152494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 May 94*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It is public knowledge that Syria will settle for nothing short of an Israeli pullout from the entire Golan Heights and south Lebanon. Full withdrawal is the linchpin of peace. Whoever cares for a just and inclusive peace settlement in the Middle East must satisfy the conditions on which the peace initiative was launched—the point of reference laid out by the Madrid conference. Since the Madrid conference, Israel been shown to be evasive as far as meeting the conditions required to establish peace. There is no shortage of Israel's evasive tactics: Unabated settlement building activity, stepped up repression of Palestinians under occupation, population displacements, killings, detentions, falsification of facts, and a defamation effort against Syria and Lebanon under pretexts that the U.S. Administration and the world community know are flimsy. The United States and the world community recognize that it is Israel that must take the blame for the logjam in the peace process.

No fair-minded person anywhere in the world will concur with Israel's definition of resistance inside Palestinian land or in the Golan Heights and south Lebanon as terrorism. The Israeli Government has never passed up an opportunity to dilute the Madrid conference formula and the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace. To advance that goal, Israel has pursued separate deals and abridged solutions, like the Oslo agreement and the subsequent Cairo accord, which, in effect, imposed Israel's tutelage over the Palestinian Arab people. The Gaza-Jericho agreement, hobbled by demeaning constraints and deviating from UN Security Council resolutions and the Madrid conference that envisaged the removal of occupation and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil, undervalues the rights and dignity and future prospects for the Palestinian people. It is therefore, not surprising to see growing opposition to the agreement in the Palestinian body politic. This in itself is a virtual plebiscite on the option of separate deals and a reconfirmation of the notion that a combination of the Madrid formula and the Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 is the only game in town for the eliminatiion of tension and instability from the region. That notion was best summed up by the paper submitted by Syria at the sixth round of the Washington peace talks.

Things became even clearer at the Geneva summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton. It emerged then that for a just and inclusive peace to come to the region, Israel must pull out from all the occupied territories. That much was resiterated by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher earlier this month. The president

impressed on the U.S. secretary the urgency of addressing the core issues if the stalled peace process is to move forward.

The question arises as to whether Christopher's next Middle East tour will break new ground. Will he bring Israel around to addressing core issues and observing UN resolutions and obliging the the international community's will for a just peace in which all the interested parties are involved?

### Vice President Returns From South Africa

*JN1205151794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 May 94*

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam returned to Damascus at dawn today after representing President Hafiz al-Asad in the inauguration of President Nelson Mandela of South Africa. Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Syrian delegation members also returned with Mr. Khaddam.

Mandela is the founder of the African National Congress, which won the nonracial elections held 26-28 April. Mandela was then elected president, after a long struggle to end the racist regime in South Africa.

### Decree Issued on Increase to Heating Allowance

*JN1205070094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 11 may 94*

["Text" of Legislative Decree No. 10 issued by President Hafiz al-Asad on 11 May]

[Text] Legislative Decree No. 10

President of the Republic, cognizant of the provisions of the Constitution, decrees the following:

Article I: The increase in the heating allowance and the price amendments included in Article I of Legislative Decree No. 5 of 30 April 1994, shall be amended to become 245 lira per month, instead of 145 lira per month. Thus, the total of this allowance will become 620 lira per month instead 520 lira per month.

Article II: This legislative decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall be effective as of 1 May 1994.

[Signed] Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Republic, Damascus on 1/12/1414 Hegira, corresponding to 11 May 1994

### Plans Set To Form 'Largest' Tourist Company

*JN0905115994 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 20 Apr 94 p 3*

["Economic News" column: "Largest Arab Tourist Company With Capital of $100 Million"]

[Text] Damascus—It has been decided to set up the largest Arab tourist company with an estimated capital of $100 million. Speaking to the Syrian Arab News Agency, Dr. 'Uthman al-'A'idi, president of the Arab Federation of Hotels and Tourist Agencies, said the Conference of Specialized Arab Federations sponsored by the Arab Economic Unity Council in Cairo has formed a committee representing the Arab Federation of Banks, the Arab Federation of Hotels and Tourist Agencies, and the secretariat of the Arab Economic Unity Council to undertake the establishment of this company. Al-'A'idi added that the Syrian Arab Company for Tourist Establishments and the Arab Federation of Hotels and Tourist Agencies will form the nucleus of this tourist company, which will be one of the largest tourist companies in the world.

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